

CA20N DT 90

-75H33



3 1761 11892350 7

Government
Publications

a history of the independent telephone industry in ontario

ONTARIO
TELEPHONE SERVICE COMMISSION



1975

PRINTED BY GRAPHIC SERVICES OFFICE,
M.T.C. DOWNSVIEW, ON RECYCLED,
DE-INKED FIBRE.

CA2 ON DT 90

-75H33

Government
Publications



THE INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE INDUSTRY IN ONTARIO

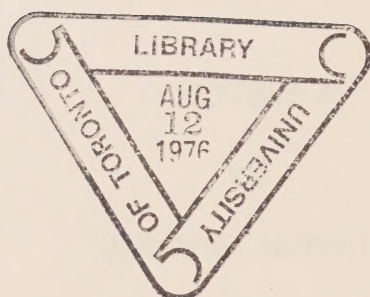
A HISTORY

By

Thomas Grindlay
Executive Secretary

For The
ONTARIO TELEPHONE SERVICE COMMISSION

1975





The Premier
of Ontario

Parliament Buildings
Queen's Park
Toronto Ontario

The telephone is used by all of us today as an extremely convenient, commonplace instrument of communications. We give little thought to it; it is always there and we can talk quickly and easily to just about anyone we wish.

It has not always been this convenient or this easy to obtain. In the early years of this century, the people of Ontario quickly recognized the advantages of the telephone. How to obtain the advantages was another question. The solution was to create their own telephone company.

The arrival of the telephone changed the society and commerce of our largely-rural province. "Central," - and the doctor, druggist, clergyman or feed mill, relative or neighbour, were just a "ring" away.

This is the record of the men and women who, in addition to those in the telephone giant, Bell Canada, brought telephone service to the farms and small towns of Ontario. It is the record of our growth into a modern agricultural and industrial province, because the availability of communications and our province's growth have gone hand in hand.

I am extremely pleased we were able to record this history of the "independent" telephone industry as a tribute to centenary observances of Dr. Alexander Graham Bell's invention of the telephone.

I commend this book to you, both as enjoyable reading and a record of a chapter in the history of our province.

William G. Davis,
Premier of Ontario.

December, 1975.

Page

	Page
Foreword	1
Chapter I The Invention of the Telephone and the Organization of the Bell System	5
Chapter II Establishment and Organization of Independent Systems in Ontario	17
Chapter III Regulatory Bodies	31
Chapter IV Telephone Associations	49
Chapter V Individual Telephone Systems	61
Austin Telephones Ltd.	63
Aylmer and Malahide Tel. Co. Ltd.	67
Beatty Telephone System	74
Beaver Valley Municipal Tel. System	76
Beeton Telephone Co. Ltd.	79
Bethesda and Stouffville Tel. Co. Ltd.	82
Blanshard Municipal Tel. System	86
Bolton Telephone Co. Ltd.	93
Brooke Municipal Tel. System	95
Bruce Municipal Tel. System	99
Cambray Telephone Co. Ltd.	104
Capital Telephone Co. Ltd.	106
Coldwater Municipal Tel. System	111
Community Tel. Co. of Ontario Ltd.	113
Davis Telephone Co. Ltd.	119
Dawn Municipal Tel. System	123
Dunsford Tel. Light and Power Coop. Assoc. Ltd.	126
Durham Telephones Ltd.	128
Dysart Municipal Tel. System	133
Haldimand Rural Tel. Co. Ltd. and the Haldimand Municipal Tel. System	137

Hay Municipal Tel. System	141
Huron and Kinloss Municipal Tel. System	144
Ilderton Telephone Co. Ltd.	147
Ivy-Thornton Telephone Co. Ltd.	152
Lansdowne Rural Telephone Co. Ltd	154
Leeds and Grenville Independent Tel. Co. Ltd.	156
Lyndhurst Telephone Co. Ltd.	159
Maitland Teleservices Ltd.	161
Manitoulin Island Tel. Co. Ltd.	164
Manvers Municipal Tel. System	169
Marmora Municipal Tel. System and Systems in the Marmora Area	173
Metcalfe Telephones Ltd.	176
Muskoka and Parry Sound Tel. Co. Ltd.	180
Noisy River Telephones Ltd.	184
Northern Telephone Ltd.	187
North Frontenac Tel. Co. Ltd.	194
North Norwich Municipal Tel. System	196
Oro Telephone Co. Ltd.	200
Otonabee Municipal Tel. System	203
Owen Sound-Chesley Area Service Station Systems	206
Oxford Telephone Co. Ltd.	211
People's Telephone Co. of Forest Ltd.	216
Perry Telephone System	220
Port Hope Telephone Co. Ltd.	223
Southern Ontario Telephone Co. Ltd.	227
Southwold and Dunwich Tel. Co. Ltd.	231
Sparrow Lake Private Tel. Line	233
Stroud Telephone Co. Ltd.	235
Thunder Bay Telephone Dept.	238
Wightman Telephone Ltd.	241
Wilmot Municipal Tel. System	245
Woodbridge and Vaughan Tel. Co. Ltd.	249

Appendix I	Complete List of Ontario Independent Systems	254
Appendix II	Alexander Graham Bell's application for a Canadian Patent	307

PUBLISHED EVERY WEEK. \$1.50 PER YEAR



VOL. XLVI.

LONDON, ONTARIO, MAY 11, 1911.

No. 972

Get your neighbors together & organize an Independent Telephone Service

Buy the telephones and materials outright
Make your own rates. Pocket the dividends

Hundreds of *Independent Rural Telephone Systems* have been established in Canada during the last four years; and thousands of farmers are now enjoying the privileges of the telephone.

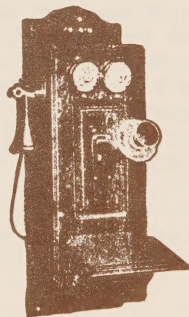
By getting a certain number of subscribers in your locality, you can make sure of success before you invest a dollar in an independent rural telephone system.

The organization, building, equipping and operating of a rural telephone service is a very simple matter. You will find full information in our Bulletin No. 2, which was prepared especially for those who haven't a telephone service in their locality. We will be glad to mail you a copy—no charge.

10 Years' Guarantee

We will contract to furnish you with telephones, and all necessary apparatus and materials, at most reasonable prices. We have our factory in Toronto equipped with all the latest machinery, and manned with skilled workmen, to insure a high standard of quality in every telephone we

turn out. Our telephones are guaranteed for ten years against any defect in material or workmanship—a broad, honest, binding guarantee, too.



You buy the telephones and materials outright from us. You own everything. You don't have to pay an exorbitant yearly rental.

Now, don't wait for someone to start things in your locality. Be the enterprising man yourself. Send for our interesting new book, "Canada and the Telephone." Read it. Study it. Look at the thirty-two clever illustrations, by a leading artist, showing the necessity of the telephone in rural districts.

Get your neighbors together at your house, and tell them all you've learned about rural telephones. Enjoy the honor of having an independent rural telephone corporation organized at your home.

Just take the first step right now. Post us a card or letter asking for our book by first mail.

Telephones on Trial

If you have a rural telephone system already in operation, we would like to send you two or three of our 'phones to test in comparison with other makes. We are so positive that ours are superior that we will make you a special free-trial offer. Ask for particulars.

We carry in stock wire, insulators, everything in construction supplies. Get our prices. Prompt delivery assured. Also ask for Bulletin No. 1.

Canadian Independent Telephone Co.,
20 Duncan Street, Toronto
LIMITED

(Courtesy: Automatic Electric)

THE INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE INDUSTRY IN ONTARIO

FOREWORD:

The invention of the telephone one hundred years ago introduced a completely new concept in communications throughout the world.

Although the telephone was invented in Brantford, Ontario, we had to wait a few years to see it find a practical application in this country. The Bell Telephone Company of Canada was incorporated in 1880 and by the early 1900's, enjoyed a tremendous demand for its service. Bell expanded its operations as fast as financing and technical considerations would permit but had to concentrate its activities in the larger centres where capital investment per phone was less and anticipated revenue higher than in other areas.

However, the demand for this new communications medium was probably even greater in rural areas than in cities and towns. When a group of rural people approached Bell to request that telephone service be established in their community and were advised that it might be years before this was possible, they had no alternative but to organize a system of their own.

A great number of independent telephone systems were thus organized during the early years of the century and by 1921, 689 non-Bell companies were operating in Ontario. These owned 115,000 phones, approximately 25 per cent of the total in the province.

Many of these companies were very small, consisting of a few rural lines which connected with the nearest Bell exchange for switching service. Others established their own exchanges and connected to a Bell toll centre for long distance service. Some of them grew to be sizeable systems.

During the depression years, many of these "independent" systems suffered from lack of adequate

revenues. During World War II, they languished from inability to obtain equipment replacements and material to improve their plant. Consequently, there were many run-down, obsolete systems in the independent field when the Ontario Telephone Authority (predecessor to the Ontario Telephone Service Commission) was established in 1954.

The Commission encouraged and assisted those systems which wished to modernize and provide up-to-date dial service. It tried to persuade small systems to amalgamate with neighbouring companies in order to form units large enough to make modernization economically feasible.

Many companies decided to sell rather than raise the large amounts of capital necessary to finance a dial conversion program. The number of independents steadily decreased until there are now only 40 left in business.

Most of these remaining systems are efficient, viable organizations able to meet the challenge of increasing demand and technological advances. They will continue to provide telephone service indefinitely in their franchised areas.

The others have now passed into history. They were formed, of necessity, by local groups of rural people to bring improved communications to themselves and their neighbours. They provided a beneficial service to their communities and, when the need for them had gone, they disappeared from the scene.

The Government of Ontario believed that the story of the independent telephone industry and the people connected with it should be recorded. The Ontario Telephone Service Commission was commissioned to compile a history of

the industry and the individual systems as the Province's contribution to the observance of the 100th anniversary of the invention of the telephone by Alexander Graham Bell.

The project began by preparing a file for each system recorded by the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board in its first report on the subject published in 1910. A basic information sheet was set up in each file to record the date the system was established, areas in which it operated, places where its exchange or exchanges were located, number of phones at different dates, names of company officials, its final disposition, and general basic information.

Subsequent annual reports of the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board and later regulatory bodies were checked. New information was recorded on the basic information sheets of existing companies. Files were set up for new companies whose names were appearing for the first time. When this part of the project was completed, it was found that down through the years almost 1,100 independent companies provided telephone service in Ontario at one time or another.

A great deal of additional material was then collected in the form of copies of newspaper items, magazine articles and published histories of various communities, as well as copies of items of information in the files of the regulatory bodies, local municipal offices, etc. Many interviews were conducted with officers and former officers of telephone companies. A wealth of information was gleaned from these sources.

The Commission's thanks go to all those independent telephone people who cooperated so graciously in providing information through interviews, old newspaper clippings from their "scrapbooks", old system records and, in some cases, specially prepared accounts which they wrote from their memories of the early days of the companies in which they were involved.

The Commission also wishes to thank Miss E. M. L. Geraghty, Bell Canada Librarian, who made available that company's files on Ontario systems and Mr. William Pryde, publisher of "The Canadian Telephone Journal", who loaned copies of the magazine from its first issue in 1934.

A great volume of material has been accumulated. On some company files, there is an abundance of information, whereas on others, there are only the basic statistics obtained from regulatory body reports and recorded on the basic information sheets. It was decided that it would not be practical to publish a book containing the histories of all 1,100 systems. Since such a book would be used chiefly as a reference work, it seemed that the reference material could just as well be left in a filing cabinet to be referred to there, when required in the future by students and researchers.

The history of "The Independent Telephone Industry in Ontario", therefore, consists mainly of a group of files in the offices of the Ontario Telephone Service Commission. This booklet merely attempts to give a general picture of the industry and brief stories of some 50 of the individual systems picked at random to provide the flavour of this exciting industry and to tell some of the story of early Ontario. For more detailed information on these 50 systems, or information on the others, reference may be made to the files mentioned above.

Appendix #1 of this booklet lists the names of all systems for which there is some record and for which a file is available.

THE INVENTION OF THE TELEPHONE AND
THE ORGANIZATION OF THE BELL SYSTEM

The word telephone means to "to talk far off". Since the days of the caveman, people have sought better and faster means of communicating with one another at a distance. African natives used tom-tom drums and North American Indians used smoke signals. The Romans sent messages by trained runners on foot, and mounted riders have been used to carry messages for centuries. The use of carrier pigeons was another means of long distance communication. In later years more sophisticated devices, such as the semaphore, the heliograph and then the Morse Telegraph were developed. All of these provided a back drop for the invention of the telephone.

Alexander Graham Bell, the man who gave the world the telephone, also gave us a host of other inventions. He was an aviation pioneer. A group he organized built the "Silver Dart" which in 1909 made the first powered flight in the British Empire. He designed a hydrofoil boat which set a world speedboat record, and he invented such widely diverse things as the cylindrical wax phonograph record and a surgical probe. For 30 years at his summer home at Baddeck, Nova Scotia, he experimented with the breeding of sheep in an effort to develop ewes that would bear more than one lamb at a time. While still in high school, he invented a rotary brushing wheel for removing the husks from wheat, a system used in the local flour mill for many years.

Bell was born in 1847 in Edinburgh, Scotland. His father, Melville Bell, and his grandfather were both specialists in the art of correct speech. His father enjoyed a world wide reputation as a teacher and author on the subject. He was the inventor of "Visible Speech", a code of written

symbols which indicated the position and action of the throat, tongue and lips in making various sounds. His three sons frequently assisted him in public demonstrations of Visible Speech. Young Graham was particularly interested in the fact that the symbols could be used as a guide to the deaf in learning to speak.

Professor Melville Bell made a lecture tour of North America in 1868 and left Graham in charge of his professional affairs. On his return he took his son into partnership with him. While assisting with his father's practice during the next two years, Graham attended University College, London, where he took courses in the anatomy of the vocal apparatus.

In 1870, Graham's older brother died from tuberculosis as had his younger brother three years earlier. Graham, according to his doctors, was also threatened with the disease and required a change of climate. An old friend recommended Southern Ontario; and in July of 1870, Melville Bell closed his practice and took his family to Canada, where he bought a home on Tutelo Heights near Brantford.

Within a year, young Bell's health had markedly improved. When Professor Melville Bell was unable to accept an invitation to visit a school for the deaf in Boston in order to demonstrate the use of Visible Speech in teaching the deaf, Graham went in his place. He also visited other similar schools in the United States. His methods of teaching were so successful that he opened his own school for teachers of the deaf the following year in Boston. In 1873, he transferred his classes to Boston University and became Professor of Vocal Physiology.

Bell had always been interested in telegraphy. After his daily teaching chores were over, he spent the evenings at his boarding house experimenting in an effort

to devise a system which would permit the transmission of more than one message at a time over a telegraph wire. The Western Union Telegraph Company was promising a fortune to anyone who could develop such a system and Bell believed he could find the answer.

His experiments were expensive and he was fortunate at this time to have made friends with the fathers of two of his deaf pupils. Thomas Sanders, a leather merchant, and Gardiner G. Hubbard, a Boston attorney, agreed to finance his work and a loose partnership was formed between the three. This association later became the Bell System.

Meanwhile, Bell's mind was working on the possibility of transmitting not only a telegraph signal but the human voice over an electrically charged wire. During his vacation in Brantford in the summer of 1874, he described his theories to his father. Thus, it can be said, despite claims to the contrary, that the telephone was invented in Canada. Bell drew diagrams and made notes which, together with his father's diary, helped prove his claim to the invention when many unsuccessful attempts were made later to break his patent.

Bell's backers felt that the experiments he was carrying out on his harmonic telegraph had more chance of bearing fruit and he continued these while at the same time working on the telephone. In the spring of 1875, he and his assistant, Thomas Watson, built the first crude "Gallows Frame" telephone. During his vacation in Brantford that year, he started writing the specifications for his first patent, which was filed on February 14, 1876, and granted on March 7, the same year.

Three days later, the first conversation was transmitted over a wire when the famous phrase "Mr. Watson, come here, I want you" was heard by his assistant on his receiver in the next room. Bell had spilled acid on his



Alexander Graham Bell

(Courtesy: Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.)

clothes and called out to Watson without realizing that his words were being carried through the transmitter he was holding.

A few months later, Bell exhibited his phone at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition. It might not have attracted much attention except for the fact that the Emperor of Brazil, who was interested in the teaching of the deaf, and had previously met Bell in Boston, recognized him and asked for a demonstration. The members of the Emperor's party were amazed and fascinated by the new invention and it received considerable publicity.

Bell still had to prove to himself, however, that the telephone would operate over greater distances than from one room to another. While vacationing in Brantford in the summer of 1876, he made several successful calls over a distance, the most notable being from Brantford to Paris, Ontario, via Toronto, where the battery was located.

In 1877, the earlier informal partnerships between Bell, Sanders and Hubbard was formalized by the creation of a trusteeship called The Bell Telephone Company. In the same year, Bell married Mr. Hubbard's daughter, Mabel, who had been a student of his several years before in his school for the deaf.

They spent an extended honeymoon in England where Bell attempted to introduce the use of the telephone with rather disappointing results, although Queen Victoria was very impressed with a demonstration. Shortly after returning to America, the Bells moved to Washington and he no longer took an active part in the telephone business. However, he was often called upon to testify in some of the more than 600 lawsuits over patent rights in which the company was engaged for several years, all of which upheld Bell's rights.

A rich young man by his early thirties, Bell

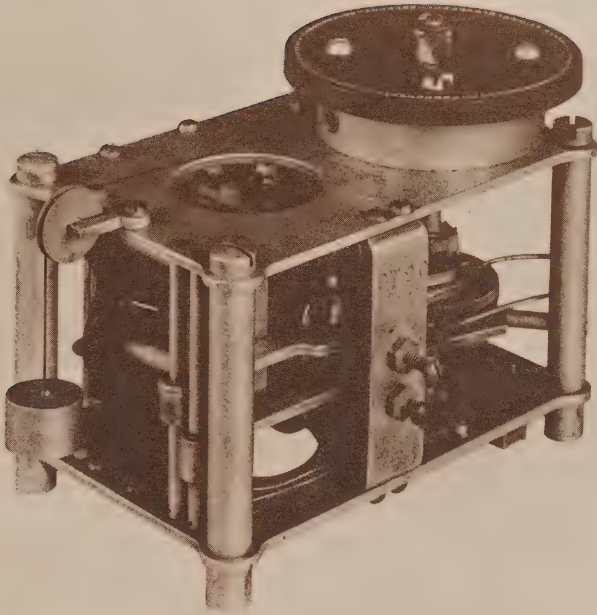
nevertheless continued to work as hard as ever, pursuing his research in many fields and his interest in teaching the deaf to speak. He died in 1922 at the age of 75 and is buried on the grounds of his beloved summer home in Nova Scotia.

Following the granting of the patent in 1876, the American Bell System expanded rapidly despite its legal problems with other claimants to the invention. By August of 1877, there were almost 800 telephones in use in the United States and by the time the patent expired in 1894, the company was well established with more than 270,000 telephones in use.

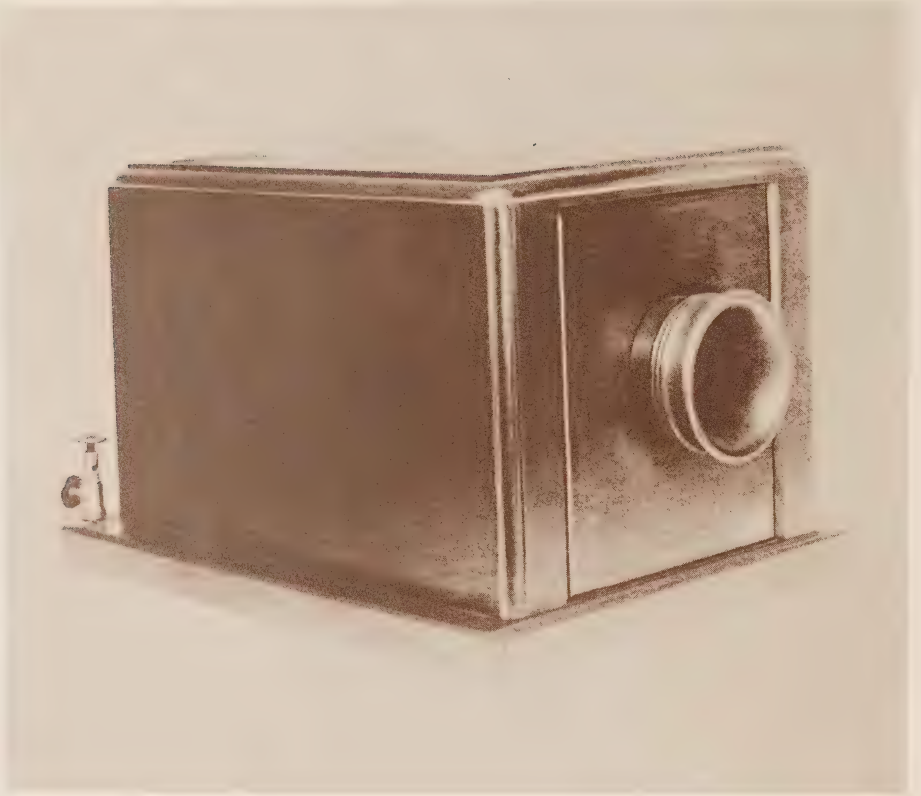
Gardiner Hubbard was legal advisor to a shoe machinery manufacturer and therefore familiar with the concept of leasing equipment rather than selling it outright. He insisted that the telephone company operate on this basis also. While his method of operating required more capital, a problem for the company in its early days, it contributed to the ultimate success of the company and set a pattern for the sale of telephone "service" throughout the world.

After the expiration of the Bell patent, many other companies started to manufacture telephone equipment and organize telephone systems. The competition became hectic and in many places, two or three companies were giving service in the same area. This often led to a most unsatisfactory situation where subscribers of one system in a town were not able to talk to subscribers of another system in the same town. The government finally took action which resulted in wholesale trading and selling between independent and Bell systems so that duplication of service was finally eliminated.

At about this same time, the first automatic exchanges were being developed and used although it was to be many years before the local switchboard operator with her



1892: First Strowger Switch
(Courtesy: Automatic Electric)



1877: Telephone Instrument leased to
Prime Minister Alexander McKenzie

(Courtesy: Bell Canada)

intimate knowledge of neighbourhood events was supplanted by dial telephones as we know them today.

One of the earliest automatic exchanges was invented by a Kansas City undertaker, Mr. A. B. Strowger, who suspected that an operator in the local exchange was being bribed by one of his competitors to report his line "busy" when a prospective customer was calling. Although his suspicions later proved to be unjustified, he got the idea that an automatic switchboard without human operators was desirable. He went on to develop one of the forerunners of the modern dial exchange and became a millionaire through the sale of his patents.

The telephone situation in Canada progressed more slowly than in the United States. Alexander Graham Bell had given his father, Melville Bell, a three-quarter interest in the Canadian Patent and Melville appointed a general agent to sell instruments to private systems. See Appendix II for photocopy of Bell's application for the Canadian Patent.

The first telephone line of a permanent type and the first line to contribute revenue to the Canadian Bell company was between the official residence of the Earl of Dufferin, Governor-General of Canada, and the office of the Prime Minister, the Honorable Alexander McKenzie. Annual rental of the two phones was \$42.

The first telephone exchange in Canada, and the second in the world, was established in Hamilton in 1878 by Hugh C. Baker whose Hamilton District Telegraph Company was shortly renamed the Hamilton Telephone Company. There were eight lines connected to the exchange, and a total of 40 subscribers, whose clumsy, wooden phones weighed about ten pounds. A caller put the instrument to his mouth to talk and then transferred it to his ear to listen.

A number of other telephone companies were started at this time in Ontario and Quebec, generally using telephone



Charles Fleetford Sise
(Courtesy: Bell Canada)

instruments supplied by Melville Bell in Brantford. The inventor's father, however, wished to sell the interest in the Canadian Patent given to him by his son; and finding it impossible to sell in Canada, finally sold it to the National Bell Telephone Company of Boston.

The latter company then persuaded Charles Fleetford Sise, a Boston insurance man, to go to Canada in 1880 to organize the telephone business there on a national basis. Though inexperienced in telephone matters, Mr. Sise was a very clever organizer and the Canadian Bell company owes a great deal to his careful management in its early days. He was vice-president and general manager of the company from 1880 to 1889 and president from 1889 to 1915. His son, Charles Fleetford Sise, Jr., grew up in the business. He was appointed vice-president and general manager in 1918 and later president, in which office he served for many years.

Upon his arrival in Canada, the elder Mr. Sise applied for and was granted a Dominion Charter by Parliament. This charter gave the Bell Telephone Company the exclusive right to manufacture telephone equipment and to sell telephone service throughout Canada. Mr. Sise also proceeded to buy out all existing operating companies in Canada such as the one in Hamilton. He also bought the Canadian patent rights to other types of telephone equipment such as the Blake transmitter and the equipment developed by Edison.

The charter provided The Bell Telephone Company with a virtual monopoly in Canada and it was Mr. Sise's ambition to provide telephone service from coast to coast. The demand for service became so great in the larger urban centres of Eastern Canada however that it took all the company's resources to meet this demand and the rest of the country was neglected.

Because of its monopoly position, the company was harshly criticized, particularly by others wishing to enter

the field. The opposition became so strong that in 1885 Parliament voided the former Act on grounds that the Bell company was importing telephone sets from outside the country contrary to the intent of the original charter. It might have been expected that this action would prove to be a disaster for the company, but actually it was expanding as fast as it could and was not seriously affected.

The immediate result was that many competing companies were organized, both equipment manufacturers and systems to supply telephone service. Eventually the Bell Telephone Company of Canada sold its interests in the Western Provinces and the Maritimes and concentrated its activities in Ontario and Quebec.

ESTABLISHMENT AND ORGANIZATION OF
INDEPENDENT SYSTEMS IN ONTARIO

Few independent telephone systems were established in Ontario before 1900.

Among those which were started prior to the turn of the century were: the North American Telephone Company (founded in 1886); the Manitoulin and North Shore Telephone and Telegraph Co. Ltd.; the Beatty System owned by Dr. A. C. Beatty of Garden Hill; the Chesley-Desboro System; the Dunwich and Dutton Telephone Association Ltd.; the Paul and Eckhert Telephone System, later the Sebringville Telephone Co. Ltd., and the Sprague Telephone System in the Belleville area. The latter was founded because the proprietor, Grant Sprague, could not get satisfactory service from the North American Telephone System. There were also the Gillies System at Lion's Head on the Bruce Peninsula, the Port Hope Telephone Company, and possibly a few others.

During the early years of the century, however, the independent telephone industry in the province expanded tremendously. Everyone seemed to want to get into the business and every community, no matter how small, was demanding its own telephone system. By 1910 when the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board was made responsible for the regulation of these systems, it estimated that there were 460 companies in operation, mostly in small urban centres and in rural areas.

A great many of the rural companies were started by doctors for their own convenience in order to keep in closer touch with a neighbouring hamlet or rural area which their practice covered. As friends and neighbours asked to be provided with service from the doctor's line, the system would expand. In this way, many grew to be sizeable companies.

Ed Downs, a retired telephone sales manager of the Northern Electric Company, remembers the early twenties when he was a young salesman calling on independent systems. He felt that he should have carried medical supplies as a sideline because so many of his customers were medical men.

Mr. Downs recalls that within a few miles of Toronto he would visit dozens of doctors who were actively managing a telephone system as well as caring for a large rural practice. These included Dr. Neil Colville of Orono, who always insisted that Mr. Downs play a game of horseshoes with him before they talked business; Dr. A. C. Beatty at Garden Hill; Dr. H. A. Turner at Millbrook, whose system was later bought by Mr. Downs and his partner and is still in business under the name of Durham Telephones Limited; Dr. A. L. Russell of the South Monaghan Municipal Telephone System at Bailieboro; Dr. J. J. Hamilton of the Manvers Municipal Telephone System at Bethany; Dr. W. J. Henderson at Cannington; Dr. R. S. Brewster of the Beeton Telephone Company Limited; Dr. D. G. McNeil at Arva; Dr. R. F. Quinlan at Stratford; Dr. Fred Routley of the Woodbridge and Vaughan Co. Ltd. and later the Bolton Telephone Co. Ltd.; Dr. R. E. Joyce, who founded the Medora and Wood Municipal Telephone System at Port Carling; Dr. J. G. Campbell of Markdale; Dr. R. A. Harrison, the optometrist in Dunnville, who owned the town systems in Dunnville and Caledonia; and Dr. W. Doan, one of the founders of the Harrietsville Telephone Association Ltd., who was president and manager of the company for 48 years and a long-time officer of the Canadian Independent Telephone Association and the Western Counties Telephone Association.

Many independent systems were founded when the proprietor of a rural general store built a line to the village where he obtained his supplies and farmers in the area persuaded him to allow them to become subscribers on his line.

The Bell system had many single toll phones in the smaller centres, located in the business establishment or home of a local "agent" who collected the charges from people who came in to use the phone for long distance calls. Many of these men realized the potential of the telephone business. They built and operated a local system in conjunction with the job as Bell agent. In many cases, they later bought out the Bell installation and took over the provision of service in the whole area.

A number of other independents were established by companies engaged in such operations as lumbering, mining or manufacturing in areas where telephone service was not available. They would build a line for their own use to connect with the nearest serving telephone system but would then be persuaded by one local resident, and then another and another, to give them a phone on the line. They eventually found themselves in the telephone business although this had not been the original intention.

As may be imagined, there was a great deal of rivalry and squabbling, not only between the Bell company and the independents, but also between the independents themselves and there was considerable agitation for government ownership of the telephone business.

In 1905, Parliament appointed Sir William Mulock as Chairman of a committee to investigate the situation. The fact that the British Post Office operated the telephone system in England, no doubt, influenced Sir William's thinking with respect to government ownership, since he was Postmaster-General of Canada at the time. He also strongly favoured the formation of local municipal telephone systems. In any case, the committee studied the organization of telephone service in other countries and received hundreds of submissions from interested parties but produced no definite recommendation on the best course to follow.

The publicity given the committee, however had a definite influence on the attitude of the Bell Telephone Company toward the small independent systems. Prior to this, the Bell Telephone Company had been loath to permit the small companies to connect with its long distance network. With the possibility of government ownership being discussed in high places, it now became much more liberal in completing toll traffic agreements with its smaller neighbours and even encouraged the establishment of rural systems.

Francis Dagger, who was later to become Supervisor of Telephone Systems for the Ontario Municipal Board, acted as technical advisor to the Mulock Committee. It was his opinion that competition stimulated the industry and kept costs to the public at a minimum. This opinion, of course, was also fostered by manufacturers and suppliers of equipment to the independent companies and a good many people were very much opposed to any further expansion of the Bell company. They considered that the future of the telephone business should be in the hands of a large number of systems rather than controlled by one huge corporation.

The dislike with which the Bell Telephone Company was regarded in those days in many areas is seen in a by-law passed by a Southern Ontario town granting an independent system a franchise. The by-law included the following rather lengthy paragraph:

"This agreement is made on the express condition that in the event of the Company amalgamating with or leasing, selling or otherwise disposing of its telephone plant or system or business or any portion or portions thereof, owned or operated by it within the municipal limits of the Municipality or assigning the rights or privileges granted to the Company by this agreement to the Bell Telephone Company of Canada, Limited, or to any company owned or controlled by the said Bell Telephone Company of Canada, or any person or persons or corporation for or on behalf of or otherwise interested in the said Bell Telephone Company Limited, or in case the capital stock of the Company or a control-

ling interest therein be owned or otherwise acquired or controlled by the said Bell Telephone Company of Canada, Limited, or any person or persons or corporation for or on behalf of or interested in the said Bell Telephone Company of Canada, Limited, or in the event of the Company entering into an agreement with any person or persons or any company whereby competition may be destroyed or affected, then and whenever any one or more of the said events shall happen, this agreement and all the rights and privileges hereby granted shall be determined and forfeited and this agreement shall ipso facto become null and void so far as any rights are hereby conferred upon the said Company and all poles, wires and ducts placed, erected or maintained by the Company under this agreement shall at once be removed by the Company upon receiving thirty days notice in writing so to do, it being the intention and spirit of this agreement that it shall remain in effect only so long as the Company remains and operates as a Telephone Company independent of the said Bell Telephone Company of Canada, Limited."

Whether provided by the Bell Telephone Company or an independent system, the first 20 years of the century saw telephone service spread widely throughout the rural areas of the province. People were happy to use this marvelous new contraption without worrying about how it worked. Many stories are told of the housewives who invariably changed to a clean apron before answering their ring on the party-line. A similar story concerns a lineman's wife, who should have known better, but who hung little bags of camphor on the receiver cord of her phone when one of the other parties on her line was quarantined with scarlet fever.

In addition to it being a wonderful convenience to the farmer in the carrying out of his work, there is no doubt that before the day of the automobile and the home entertainment provided by radio and television, the rural party-line was a great boon to the lonely farm wife. The first report on telephone systems, issued by the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board in 1910 put the case rather more dramatically, as follows:

"When sickness is in the home and moments stand between the life of the sufferer and medical aid, the value of the rural telephone cannot be computed in dollars and cents. When fire threatens destruction, a minute or two will suffice to summon the prompt assistance of neighbours and in this way many valuable buildings are saved every year. Thieves and tramps no longer go prowling through districts having a rural service, terrorizing the women and children, and stealing whatever they can lay hands upon, for the telephone pursues them with relentless speed and renders escape impossible."

The Telephone Act of 1910 brought all Ontario independent systems under regulation of the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board. Its first report listed the names of 215 systems which had filed their tariff of rates as required by the new law. The report also pointed out, however, that the Board had knowledge of at least 460 systems operating in the province although less than half of them had been heard from.

The reports of each succeeding year show the names of more and more systems as new ones were organized and older ones which, in true independent fashion, had previously neglected to register, now filed annual returns to the Board. By 1921, the total number of systems operating in the province had reached 689, the largest number in existence at any one time. Of these, five were public utilities, 95 were municipal systems owned by their subscribers, 284 were limited companies, and the rest were owned by individuals, partnerships or associations.

The systems owned by individuals and partnerships did not present too great a problem to the Board, since they were, in most cases, very small and operated only for the convenience of their owners. If larger, they were operated by their owners as a profit making business and source of livelihood and presumably were reasonably well managed.

The associations, on the other hand, were generally composed of a small group of people who had banded together in a rather loose organization to provide the capital to start a telephone system in their neighbourhood. They each paid a share of the cost of establishing the system and were then assessed with an equal share of the cost of operating the system each year. To keep down this cost, they frequently donated the necessary labour for repairs and were usually expected to renew batteries at their own expense and contribute poles from their own woodlots. This method of operating was considered unsatisfactory by the Board for several reasons.

While these "associations" had served their purpose in earlier days by providing service when no one else would, and by educating the farmer to the value of rural telephone service, they operated inefficiently and quickly outlived their usefulness. Many of them considered that their undertaking was merely a private affair, established to bring service to the original members, with no obligation to extend the service to others who might later wish to install a telephone. Furthermore, the members of these associations were individually liable for the debts of the system and could find themselves with a problem if the system were sued as the result of a damage claim or a bankruptcy.

The Board was also concerned with the fact that, as a regulatory body, it found it more difficult to deal with systems which were organized in this way. In 1918, The Telephone Act was revised to include a section which provided that every unincorporated association or partnership of persons comprising five or more members, which owned or proposed to own a telephone system, must obtain Letters Patent creating them a limited company with share capital under the Ontario Companies Act. The Board provided assistance to the associations in making applications for company charters. Within a few years, most of them had



1903: Telephone Manufacturing Plant

(Courtesy: Automatic Electric)

complied with the legislation and eventually all individual proprietorships, partnerships and associations were incorporated. A beneficial side effect of this operation was the fact that, in a number of cases, groups of small associations got together in order to save legal costs and became a single larger limited company.

Of the 284 limited companies in operation in 1921, a few were relatively large, well organized corporations in business to make a profit for their shareholders as well as to provide telephone service to their communities. The vast majority, however, were formed with the paramount idea of providing telephone service to their shareholders. It was usually a requirement of these systems that each applicant for service purchase a certain minimum number of shares in the company to cover the capital cost of providing him with a phone and associated equipment. Many companies had a clause in their by-laws limiting the number of shares any individual could own. This resulted in the shares being widely held in the community rather than concentrated in the hands of a small group.

By 1975, all but 24 of the limited companies had been sold or disposed of through merger with, or sale to neighbouring independents, or sale to the Bell Telephone Company. Most of those remaining are medium to large systems which are well managed and maintained but there are still three small companies operating a total of some 1,000 phones which are attempting to provide service on a manual basis. They present a problem to both their owners and subscribers.

The five public utilities all operated in Northern Ontario. As their name implies, they were owned by the municipalities in which they were located. If a public utility is sold, the proceeds of the sale must be deposited in the general fund of the municipality and all ratepayers benefit. There are still five public utilities operating telephone systems in Northern Ontario at Thunder Bay, Kenora, Cochrane, Dryden and Keewatin.

"Municipal" systems were a different and rather unique type of organization. A municipal system is owned, not by the municipalities in which it operates, but only by the "originating municipality" in which it has first been established. The originating municipality owns the system in trust for its "subscribers". The word "subscriber", when used in connection with a municipal telephone system has a meaning different to the general term which is used to describe anyone who subscribes to a magazine for monthly delivery or to a telephone company for service. A "subscriber" of a municipal telephone system is a land owner who has signed a petition to the municipal council requesting that telephone service be provided to his premises and thereby pledges his land as security for the debts of the system equally with all other subscribers. The subscribers own the system. If it is sold, the law provides that the net proceeds are to be divided among them. Rights and responsibilities as a subscriber attach to the land listed in the petition. If a subscriber sells his land, the new owner becomes the "subscriber" in his stead. He automatically assumes all ownership rights in the system as well as the responsibility of being liable for a share in the system's debts.

The idea behind the concept of municipal systems was simply to make it easy for a group of rural people to finance the establishment of a telephone system in their community. Where a group of people wanted service and found that if they were going to get it, they would have to take action themselves, there was always the problem of raising the necessary capital. If they decided to set up a telephone association or limited company, they had to dip into their pockets for the money to build the line and supply phones. On the other hand, when they established a municipal system, they did not have to produce cash for their share of the project. Rather they petitioned the local municipality to issue debentures to cover the cost and they guaranteed the debentures by each pledging his land as security for an equal portion of the debenture issue.

Once a municipal telephone system had been built and was operating as a going concern, an annual levy was placed on the tax roll charging each subscriber with an equal share of the carrying charges on the debentures and with an equal share of the cost of maintaining the system during the year. In cases where a prospective customer for service was not a land owner and could not, therefore, be accepted as a "subscriber", he was taken on as a "renter" at a fixed annual rate. The renter did not have any share in the ownership of the system and could not serve as a commissioner or vote at meetings of subscribers.

Newly formed municipal systems were managed by the council of the originating municipalities but provision was made in the legislation whereby the subscribers could vote to have the management placed under the control of a Commission elected by them. Most municipal systems chose the Commission form of management and elected commissioners (usually three) each year at the annual meeting of subscribers. The commissioners supervised the day-to-day operation of the system. Since a municipal telephone system was not a corporate entity, title to its physical assets was vested in the originating municipality in trust for the subscribers and all financing, signing of deeds, etc., had to be looked after by the municipal council. A considerable number of rural politicians, who later progressed to greater things as Members of Parliament or of the Legislature, got their start in public life by being elected a commissioner of one of the municipal telephone systems in Ontario.

Legislation covering the establishment and operation of municipal telephone systems was first introduced in "The Local Municipal Telephone Act, 1908". Substantially the same provisions were included in "The Telephone Act" and its various revisions down to the present day.

The Ontario Railway and Municipal Board and its Supervisor of Telephone Systems, Mr. Francis Dagger, were most enthusiastic about the formation of municipal telephone

systems. In an early report he stated that there was no doubt that this concept offered the best solution to the telephone problem in rural areas by reason of the sound method of financing and the convenient means of repayment. The Board expected that the number of municipal systems would rapidly increase and that they would eventually outnumber all others.

In fact, there were more than 120 municipal systems at one time and eleven were still in operation in 1975. Most of those which sold did so when they were faced with the necessity of converting to dial operation. Their subscribers felt that their original purpose had been served and did not wish to pledge their lands as security for the large debenture issue which was usually necessary to finance a modernization program. Furthermore, as owners of the system, they had built up an equity in it and the only opportunity to cash in on this equity was when the system was sold.

Many of the systems sold because they were outmoded and faced with a modernization program they did not wish to undertake. Consequently, the selling price was not high and each subscriber's share of the remaining assets was not large. However, several larger municipal systems which had already rebuilt to modern standards decided, for one reason or another, to sell out and obtained very substantial selling prices. In a couple of cases, the individual subscriber's share of the assets, when they were finally distributed, amounted to more than \$1,000.

Naturally all landowners who felt they had even a remote claim to be a "subscriber" as defined by The Telephone Act, demanded that they be included. A number of these cases could not be resolved by the systems concerned and were finally settled by the courts on an individual basis. Cases which were difficult to settle usually came about because the "subscribed" property had changed hands

during the intervening years, in some cases having been subdivided into several properties; and in others, several subscribed properties were combined into one.

The 11 municipal systems still in business are all large enough to be viable business enterprises. However, the type of organization under which they operate was probably not intended to be much more than a temporary expedient to bring telephone service to a group of local rural people. It was expected that service would be provided eventually by Bell or a larger independent company. The "municipal" type of organization, while it is relatively easy to finance through the issue of debentures by the initiating municipality, is faced with a problem when it expands too much. In some cases, the council of an initiating municipality has balked at having to provide more and more financing as the telephone system grows and has thereby influenced the subscribers to agree to sell the system and realize their equity in it.

Several attempts have been made to organize limited companies to take over municipal systems by the issue of stock to subscribers. These have not been too successful in the past but similar schemes in the future may provide a solution to the problem of how to pay a proper return to "subscribers" on their equity in a municipal system so that those systems remaining in business can continue to flourish as independents.

It is interesting to note from statistics compiled by the various government regulatory bodies that the independent telephone industry in Ontario, although it comprises many fewer individual systems than it once did, now owns and operates more telephones than ever. The number of systems has decreased nearly every year since it reached a peak in the early 1920's, but the loss of phones to the independent industry through the sale of systems to Bell Canada has been more than made up by those remaining. The

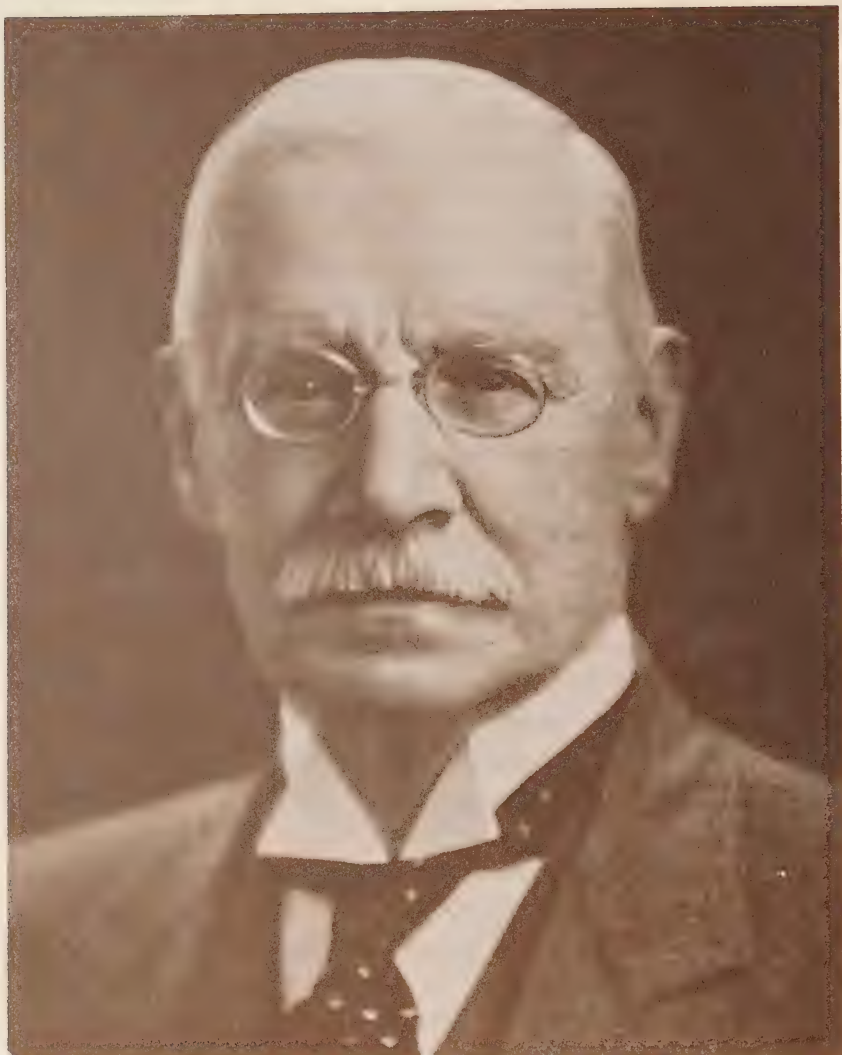
689 systems in 1921 operated approximately 115,000 phones and had an investment in plant and equipment of about \$10 million. In 1975, the remaining 40 systems under provincial regulation operated almost twice as many phones and had invested approximately \$100 million in capital assets.

REGULATORY BODIES

The first Telephone Act, passed in 1910, brought all independent systems in the province under the control and regulation of the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board (later to be known as the Ontario Municipal Board). The provisions of the Act required that the tariff charges of all systems be filed and approved by the Board before going into effect. They also gave the Board power to order a system to supply service and approve agreements for the interchange of service between systems. In 1912, the Act was broadened to include the provisions of The Local Municipal Telephone Act of 1908. The latter Act set out the machinery for establishing and operating a "municipal" telephone system. Its administration had also been superintended by the Board.

Francis Dagger, a British telephone expert who had acted as a consultant to the Mulock Committee and to the Governments of Manitoba and Saskatchewan when they were setting up provincial telephone systems, was instrumental in drafting the legislation. He so impressed the government with his ability that he was appointed the Board's Supervisor of Telephone Systems. In this position, which he held until his retirement 25 years later, Mr. Dagger acted as advisor to the Board on all applications having to do with telephone matters and administered the day-to-day operations of its telephone department. He also acted as technical advisor and father-confessor to the telephone systems which came under the Board's jurisdiction.

As a first step in carrying out its responsibilities under the new Act, the Board compiled a list of all the independent systems known to be operating in the province. The list was made up from records of the Canadian Independent Telephone Association and from various suppliers of telephone equipment. A printed questionnaire was forwarded



Francis Dagger
Supervisor of Telephone Systems
Ontario Municipal Board

(Courtesy: Canadian Telephone Journal)

to each system with a request that it be completed and returned. The Board's report for 1910 stated that "out of an approximate total of 460 systems, only 215 statements have been filed and a very large proportion of these were so unintelligible that a vast amount of correspondence was rendered necessary before the tariffs could be approved".

Nevertheless, Mr. Dagger and his small staff persevered and within a few years succeeded in recording particulars of all the systems and filing an approved tariff of rates for each. The Board early adopted the practice of including in its annual report a list of the systems operating in Ontario, with brief statistics on each supplied by the companies themselves. These reports supply an invaluable source of information on the independent industry. They show the founding date of all the systems, as well as indicating what eventually happened to them or when they ceased to operate.

In the early days, almost all statistical returns submitted by the companies were handwritten: Sometimes information which might appear to be inconsistent from one year to the next was only the result of illegible writing. The Board's list of systems, in addition to recording statistics on each, included the name of the official who had submitted the report. In most cases this was, in fact, the name of the person mainly responsible for the operation of the system. In other cases, such as with larger companies, the person listed as "secretary, manager or owner" might not be the man who actually played the main role in the founding and operation of the system. It is regrettable that the names of some of these pioneers of the industry were not recorded.

In 1921, James A. "Jim" McDonald, a former telephone equipment salesman with one of the large suppliers, was engaged as Mr. Dagger's assistant and succeeded him as Supervisor of Telephone Systems when Mr. Dagger retired in 1931. Mr. McDonald's specialty was the provision of technical



James A. McDonald
Supervisor of Telephone Systems
Ontario Municipal Board

advice and assistance to the smaller systems. He became known and respected throughout the province as he travelled from one company to another, helping them with design problems, settling minor disputes, and teaching them the fundamentals of running a telephone business.

All of the independent systems suffered setbacks during the depression years, and during World War II they found it difficult to obtain necessary manpower and materials to maintain their equipment and outside plant. Following the war, the industry was faced with a tremendously increased demand for telephone service and also with the fact that a great deal of its plant was old and worn out. Over the years, most systems had placed more emphasis on low rates than on building up depreciation reserves. Now they found themselves without funds to rebuild.

At that time, while it operated only one-eighth of the telephones in the province, the independent industry supplied service to approximately one-half of all rural subscribers. There was no doubt that in many areas this service left something to be desired.

The government was swamped with complaints and the Municipal Board commissioned Brig. R. E. Smythe, a consulting engineer, to make a preliminary study of the situation. His report, submitted in 1948, suggested a number of alternative courses of action which the government might follow. These alternatives ranged from the one extreme of doing nothing to the other extreme of the Province taking over all telephone service in Ontario.

Brig. Smythe recommended that a middle road course be followed. He proposed that a government authority or commission be established which would set standards of service and be responsible for overall planning of communication needs. He also considered that the government might find it necessary in certain cases to construct and operate telephone systems on a temporary basis.



H. A. Rogers, O.B.E.
Chairman
Ontario Telephone Authority

(Courtesy: Canadian Telephone Journal)

Acceptance of the Smythe report was followed in 1951 by passing of The Rural Telephone Act which charged the Hydro Electric Power Commission of Ontario with the duty of investigating ways and means of promoting improved telephone service in rural areas of the province. The Hydro Commission at this time was widely extending its own service into rural districts and low cost, reliable power was soon to be accepted as a matter of course by farmers and other rural residents.

No doubt, Ontario Hydro was chosen for the job of reporting on rural telephone service because of its success in the field of rural power, which is similar and even more difficult to provide. In any case, Hydro appointed a committee to conduct a study of the problem under the chairmanship of Robert H. Saunders, chairman of the Hydro Commission. Also appointed to the Rural Telephone Committee were Brig. Smythe, author of the 1948 Report, H. A. Rogers, publisher of the Canadian Telephone Journal and secretary of the Canadian Independent Telephone Association, and V. B. W. Flynn, manager of the Noisy River Telephone Co. Ltd., one of the larger rural telephone systems. The committee immediately set to work to obtain the facts of the situation and determine what might be done to improve it.

From the beginning, close contact existed between the Rural Telephone Committee and the Bell Telephone Company. The latter realized that improvements to rural service in independent company territories would enhance the public image of the telephone industry as a whole, and also increase Bell's revenue from independent connecting lines. Accordingly, two Bell staff executives, H. B. Bleeker and W. G. Lloyd, were loaned to the committee and served on its staff for more than a year.

The committee and its staff made an intensive study of the existing situation in Ontario. Each of the approximately 500 systems was asked to complete a detailed



Arnold W. Smith
Chief Engineer
Ontario Telephone Authority

(Courtesy: Canadian Telephone Journal)

questionnaire on its operation and a great many field visits were made. Large scale maps were prepared showing the location of all independent company lines and this alone was a tremendous task. Comparison studies were made of the situation in other provinces and the United States to determine how the rural problem was being handled elsewhere.

Early in 1953 the Rural Telephone Committee submitted its report which contained a detailed analysis of the existing situation. Twenty-six recommendations were made. The chief recommendation was that a "Telephone Authority" be established which would take over regulation of independent telephone systems from the Ontario Municipal Board. In addition to its regulatory function, the Authority would provide technical and commercial assistance to the systems. This assistance would include free engineering and plant design, instruction in proper accounting methods, assistance with day-to-day technical problems, and legal help in bringing systems together with a view to their merger into larger more viable units. The committee also recommended that, while no direct subsidies should be made to telephone systems, loans of government funds should be made under certain conditions to help systems which were having difficulty in financing capital improvement programs.

With the exception of the recommendation with regard to loans, the report was accepted by the government and in July 1954, a revised Telephone Act was passed. Messrs. Rogers, Smythe and Flynn were appointed Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Member respectively of the new Ontario Telephone Authority, which was to report directly to the Minister of Agriculture.

In the meantime, a staff had been assembled consisting of Arnold Smith and Victor Handforth as Chief Engineer and Assistant; James A. McDonald and Thomas Grindlay as Commercial Director and Assistant; Mrs. D. A. Gordon as Secretary; and Victor Jobbins and George Naldrett as Field Engineers. Mr. Jobbins had been manager of the Medora and

Wood Municipal Telephone System and Mr. Naldrett was a partner in the Thamesville Telephone Co. Ltd.

The staff was expanded gradually and the members of the Authority were changed from time to time. Among those who served for comparatively long terms were Gordon Bennett, later Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food; Norman Currie of Northern Telephone Limited; Glen Hodgson of the Dysart Municipal Telephone System and later a Member of the Provincial Legislature; Dr. S. R. McKelvey, former president of the Beeton Telephone Co. Ltd.; and J. C. Dance, manager of the Aylmer & Malahide Telephone Co. Ltd. In 1958, Mr. Flynn replaced Mr. Rogers as Chairman of the Authority and continued in that office until his retirement in 1972 when he was succeeded by Mr. Bennett.

In 1960, the Hon. W. A. Goodfellow, Minister of Agriculture, considered that the word "Authority" gave a wrong impression of the aims and duties of the Ontario Telephone Authority and The Telephone Act was amended to change the name to the "Ontario Telephone Service Commission".

In 1971, when the Departments of Highways and Transport were merged to form a Department of Transportation and Communications, it was decided that it would be more logical to have the Commission report to the Minister of the new department rather than to the Minister of Agriculture and the appropriate change was made by Order-in-Council. Shortly afterwards, a Communications Division was established in the Ministry. The Commission's engineering staff was transferred to the Division which, with its greatly expanded facilities, was prepared to supply a wide range of technical assistance at the Commission's request.

In 1975, in order to meet increasing problems being faced by the independent telephone industry and to be prepared for possibly increased responsibilities in the future, the number of members appointed to the Commission was increased to seven under the chairmanship of David M.

Duncan, Q.C. The appointments represented all areas of the province. In addition to Mr. Duncan, members of the 1975 Commission were: J. B. Webster, London; E. A. Frith, Callander; Margaret Parry, Belleville; Frank Wall, Port Burwell; Robert P. Tallon, Brockville; and J. D. Misner, D.C., Dryden.

The twenty year period following its establishment saw the main objective of the Commission accomplished. This objective was to bring improved telephone service to rural Ontario. It was accomplished either by the remaining independents themselves, usually with the assistance of the Commission, or through the fact that where an independent area was taken over by Bell, plant was rebuilt and modernized where necessary.

Unfortunately, the Commission did not have the success it had anticipated in persuading groups of small systems to amalgamate in order to form companies large enough to finance and manage modernization programs. Countless meetings were held with officials of small systems in an effort to persuade them to merge with their neighbours. Although all would agree with the suggestion in principle, there were only a relatively few cases where a successful merger was actually finalized. It would be found later that long-standing local feuds between officers of the systems had made it impossible for them to get together or that each company considered its plant to be superior to that of the others, and terms of a merger could not be agreed upon. Many promising situations, where a merger of three or four systems appeared to have every chance of success, were spoiled when a key system decided to sell to the Bell Telephone Company. The rest would then find that they had no alternative but to take the same course. However, in most cases where a small system sold out to Bell, its plant and equipment would be entirely replaced before it was taken over. In other cases, usable plant would be retained and the rest would be rebuilt to "dial" standards. Improved service to the community, therefore, resulted even though it was not being provided by an independent.



Martin Prickaerts of the Ontario Telephone
Service Commission with Ray Wightman of
Wightman Telephone Ltd.

(Courtesy: Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food)

Systems which decided to remain in business were encouraged by the Commission to embark on dial conversion programs. Every assistance was provided, except for financing which they had to arrange on their own. When a company requested help in planning a rebuilding program, the Commission's engineers and commercial advisors would cooperate on a preliminary study to determine the approximate cost of the project and whether or not the expenditure would be warranted by savings in operator expense and increased revenue. If the system then decided to proceed, a detailed field study would be made and complete engineering plans would be prepared, including specifications for the most suitable dial equipment. Assistance and advice were continued during the building of plant and until the new system was working satisfactorily. In effect, systems which were too small to employ engineers of their own, or to afford to hire consulting engineers, were supplied with the necessary expertise by the Commission.

A great many systems were helped in this way. Many more were helped with their day-to-day problems by the Commission's field men who gave on-the-job instruction in all phases of telephone work and were of especial assistance to smaller systems which were unable to maintain a staff of fully trained personnel.

A few disappointments were suffered by the Commission in the case of a number of companies which made plans to go ahead with improvement programs and were given many man-days of assistance by the Commission only to change their minds and decide to sell.

In its early days, the Authority conducted one experiment in public ownership. A great number of complaints of poor service were being received from the Bancroft-Barry's Bay area. The area was being served by 13 small independent systems, some of which were in a very poor state of repair and none of which was aggressive enough to wish to undertake the responsibility of providing good service in the whole

district. The problem was aggravated by the discovery of uranium in the area and several large mining companies were moving in. The mines were able to obtain other services, such as good roads and hydro power, but satisfactory telephone service was sadly lacking.

The Authority discussed the situation with the Bell Telephone Company and some of the larger independent systems. Despite discrete persuasion, it was obvious that the operating companies had expansion problems of their own with which to contend. None of them were prepared to make the large capital investment which would be necessary to provide high-grade service in this marginal territory.

It was decided that the government itself would have to do something to solve this problem which was fast developing into an emergency situation. The result was that the Ontario Telephone Development Corporation Act was passed early in 1955. The corporation was to be a Crown company, financed by the government, with the power to acquire, expropriate if necessary, construct, operate and sell telephone systems within the province.

The corporation then set up a subsidiary called the Madawaska Valley Telephone Co. Ltd. which was financed by the purchase of its stock by the Telephone Development Corporation. The three members of the Authority were appointed officers of the corporation and of the Madawaska company. It was the intention that when the Madawaska company had served its purpose, and had eventually been sold and wound up its affairs, the funds derived would be used by the corporation to perform a similar exercise in some other area or areas of the province where this type of government assistance was required.

In any case, the Madawaska Valley Telephone Co. Ltd. purchased all 13 companies, rehabilitated telephone plant and equipment throughout the area and extended lines into formerly unserved sections. It operated successfully

for about five years and was then offered for sale by tender. The Bell Telephone Company bought the system at a price which recovered approximately 90 per cent of the costs of building and operating it. While not a profitable venture, the experiment did meet its objective of developing and providing good telephone service in a territory where it was badly needed. The final net cost to the government was some \$60,000 but the company was operating more than 2,400 phones when it was sold so that the average contribution per phone was only \$25. This would seem not only a justifiable but a fitting use of public funds when it is considered that an emergency situation, which private enterprise would or could not tackle, was successfully handled by government.

During the years 1954 to 1974, the Commission issued a total of some 3,000 orders covering applications concerning all phases of the independent industry's operation, from rate increases, financing, and sales of systems to the fixing of a date for the annual meeting of a municipal system's subscribers. Some applications could easily be dealt with on the basis of the information submitted. Others required a great deal of investigation and staff work. In some cases, a public hearing was needed before the Commission was in a position to make a decision.

A peculiar situation existed in the matter of rates. In the early days, the Commission found that most systems were extremely reticent about applying for higher rates. Yet they needed more revenue if they were to provide the better service expected of them. The Commission staff found itself in the odd position of recommending that certain rehabilitation work be done or that a program to convert to dial be started and, at the same time, suggesting that the system should raise its level of rates in order to be able to finance the necessary expenditures. The staff would assist the system to prepare a rate application to the Commission and then appear on the system's behalf when the application was being heard.



Francis Gemmell and Martin Prickaerts of the Ontario Telephone Service Commission with Jack Kilpatrick, Central Office Foreman of the Bruce Municipal Telephone System in the dial office at Kincardine.

(Courtesy: Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food)

Most systems charged rates which were lower than the corresponding Bell rates and had no wish to exceed the Bell schedule because of the reaction from their own customers. Despite the fact that it is more expensive to provide service in rural areas than in urban centres, the rural systems were able to survive on lower rates than Bell because of lower overhead and wage scales. The Commission, therefore, took the stand that if a company was providing good service and applied for rates that were no greater than the Bell equivalents, it should be permitted to advertise the proposed rates and, if no serious objections were raised by subscribers, the rates should be approved.

By the mid-seventies, however, inflation and rising costs of labour and materials had created a situation where the independents found that they must pay competitive wages and were not able to realize the same economies in operation. They discovered that they must have higher rates than Bell Canada if they were to provide good service in predominantly rural areas without the cross-subsidization from urban centres which Bell's rural service enjoys.

The larger seven-person Commission appointed in 1975, therefore, had to give much more detailed study to the consideration of rate applications, most of which proposed rates higher than the Bell equivalents. Before such rates could be approved, the Commission had to be satisfied that they were warranted and that the system actually needed them to maintain a viable operation. This meant that a system's records and forecasts had to be carefully checked and, in some cases, revised, and that a great many more public rate hearings had to be held than in the past.

The Commission's role as a technical advisor was somewhat diminished by the end of its first twenty years due to the fact that the job it had been given to do was almost done. Most of the remaining independent systems were operating modern, up-to-date equipment and were large

enough to employ trained staff. However, the Commission's objectives still remain the same; to administer The Telephone Act in the best interests of both the industry and the public and to encourage the provision of improved telephone service in the areas served by the systems under its jurisdiction.

THE TELEPHONE ASSOCIATIONS

Telephone men and women are dedicated people. When two or three are together, the conversation invariably turns to business. This, undoubtedly, has something to do with the fact that the development of the independent telephone industry in Ontario was paralleled by the growth of a number of associations.

Three of the early groups were: the Durham Union Telephone Association, made up of independent systems in the County of Durham; the Leeds and Grenville Association; and the York and Ontario Independent Telephone Union. These associations were founded with the double purpose of increasing the interchange of business among their members and of strengthening their position with the Bell Telephone Company.

The York and Ontario Union was made up of 11 member companies. They operated a total of 14 exchanges and had phones in almost every township in York County. At first, free interchange of messages was permitted between the exchanges; but as the number of subscribers increased, the long distance circuits became busier and finally the congestion of traffic became so great that a schedule of toll rates had to be established.

Companies which joined the York and Ontario Union were required to sign an agreement which stated that they would abide by the constitution of the Union. One article of the constitution was designed to prevent the sale of member companies to the Bell Telephone Company. It provided that if a company wished to sell, it must first approach other members of the Union. This clause was effective in maintaining its objective for a number of years but, one by one, the member companies came up for sale and, except in one instance, were sold to Bell because their fellow members were not in a

position to take them over. By the late 1950's, only two members remained: the Bethesda and Stouffville Telephone Co. Ltd. and the Mount Albert Telephone Co. Ltd. These also sold out to Bell eventually.

In 1905, A. F. Wilson, the secretary of the York and Ontario Union, and his friend, Alph Hoover of the Markham and Pickering Telephone Co. Ltd. (and later president of the Home Telephone Co. Ltd.), conceived the idea of a greater organization that might render national service. Invitations were sent to all 73 known independent telephone systems in Canada to attend a meeting in the Toronto City Hall. The response was excellent. A great many Ontario independent systems were represented as well as a number from Quebec and the other provinces.

Mayor Thomas Urquhart personally welcomed the delegates and was invited to chair the meeting. Various speakers urged the organization of a nationwide association and a formal resolution was adopted which established the Canadian Independent Telephone Association. Also adopted by the meeting were the following objects of the Association:

- (a) "The cooperation of the members for the purpose of bringing into more general use, improving and cheapening telephone service in Canada."
- (b) "The adoption from time to time of such measures as may be deemed in the best interests of the Association and its members and for the protection of their common business interests."
- (c) "The maintenance of friendly relations with telephone and telegraph companies in Canada."
- (d) "To afford its members means of intercourse, mutual helpfulness and instruction in telephone matters."

A committee was appointed to draft a constitution for the Association. One of the articles included in this document certainly indicated that the matter of the collection

of an annual membership fee of one dollar was not going to be taken lightly.

"Any member who, on the day appointed for such payment, shall be considered in arrear and if the subscription be not paid on or before the first day of December, the secretary shall notify the member so in arrear that if the subscription remains unpaid for a further period of one month, the defaulter shall cease to be a member, unless he can excuse the default to the satisfaction of the Executive Committee."

The first slate of officers elected at the 1905 meeting was as follows:

President:	Alph Hoover, Green River, Ontario
Vice-President:	F. D. McKay, Toronto, Ontario
Secretary-Treasurer:	A. F. Wilson, Markham, Ontario
Executive Committee:	Dr. T. F. Demers, Levis, Quebec
	Dr. W. Doan, Harrietsville, Ontario
	C. J. Thornton, Kirby, Ontario
	Dr. A. Ochs, Hespeler, Ontario
	Levi Moyer, Beamsville, Ontario
	Richard Vigars, Port Arthur, Ontario
	Dr. E. Hart, Brantford, Ontario
	J. A. Sprague, Mountain View, Ontario
	T. H. Estabrooks.

The first annual convention of the Association was held in Toronto the following year and every year thereafter until 1967 when it was held in Montreal to coincide with the Centennial Exposition. From then on, it has alternated between Toronto and other cities in Ontario and Quebec.

Alph Hoover served as president of the CITA for 13 years and then as executive secretary for another 22 years before retiring in 1940 at the age of 75. There is no doubt that he was the most prominent figure in the Association during his years as an officer. A serious crisis developed in 1937 when a controlling interest in the Home Telephone Co. Ltd., of which Mr. Hoover was president, was sold to the Bell Telephone Company. One of the basic reasons for the existence of the Association was to enable its members to present a united front



Alph Hoover
First President
Canadian Independent Telephone Association
(Courtesy: Canadian Telephone Journal)

against Bell. It was almost unthinkable that the president of a Bell-controlled company could serve as one of its officers. Mr. Hoover tendered his resignation as executive secretary but it was a measure of the respect and affection in which he was held that the convention that year voted to make an exception in his case and he was reappointed.

Following Mr. Hoover's long term as president, it became customary for a different man to hold the office each year, usually the senior member of the executive committee. The position of executive secretary was a permanent appointment, and among those who have held the post since Mr. Hoover's retirement are: H. A. Rogers, publisher of the Canadian Telephone Journal and later chairman of the Ontario Telephone Authority; Guy Turner and Roger Sutherland of The People's Telephone Company of Forest Ltd.; Reg. Black of the Hay Municipal Telephone System; and Lloyd Hale of the Community Telephone Company of Ontario Ltd.

To many employees and officers of independent systems, the main function of the CITA was to sponsor the annual convention which provided a two-day outing for themselves and their wives and an opportunity for a convivial get-together with their friends in the telephone business. The manufacturers and suppliers of telephone equipment contributed to the education of the delegates by furnishing displays of their wares, and to their entertainment by underwriting the cost of the evening banquet and by maintaining hospitality suites in the hotel where the convention was held.

The more serious business of the Association was handled by the elected executive throughout the year. Members of various committees worked hard, long hours and gave freely of their time on behalf of the independent industry.

Probably the most important responsibility is that of the Toll Compensation Committee which represents the industry in negotiating toll settlements with Bell Canada. J. R. Forbes of the Southern Ontario Telephone Co. Ltd. was chairman of this

committee for many years and assisted in drawing up a number of early traffic agreements. Among those who followed him as chairman of the committee were: S. Adamson of the Blanshard Municipal Telephone System; Don McKelvie of Northern Telephone Limited; James W. Thomson of the Lievre Valley Telephone Co. Ltd. of Buckingham, Quebec; and Julian Thuot of Quebec Telephone Ltd.

Temporary committees were set up from time to time to handle particular projects. The Minimum Wage Committee reported to the 1936 Annual Convention that it had been successful "after several conferences with the Bell Company and the Minimum Wage Board in arriving at a scale of wages to be paid all girl operators". Girls operating switchboards with between 50 and 300 lines were now to be paid \$7.00 for a 48 hour week; and for those operating switchboards with more than 300 lines, the generous weekly salary was \$9.00.

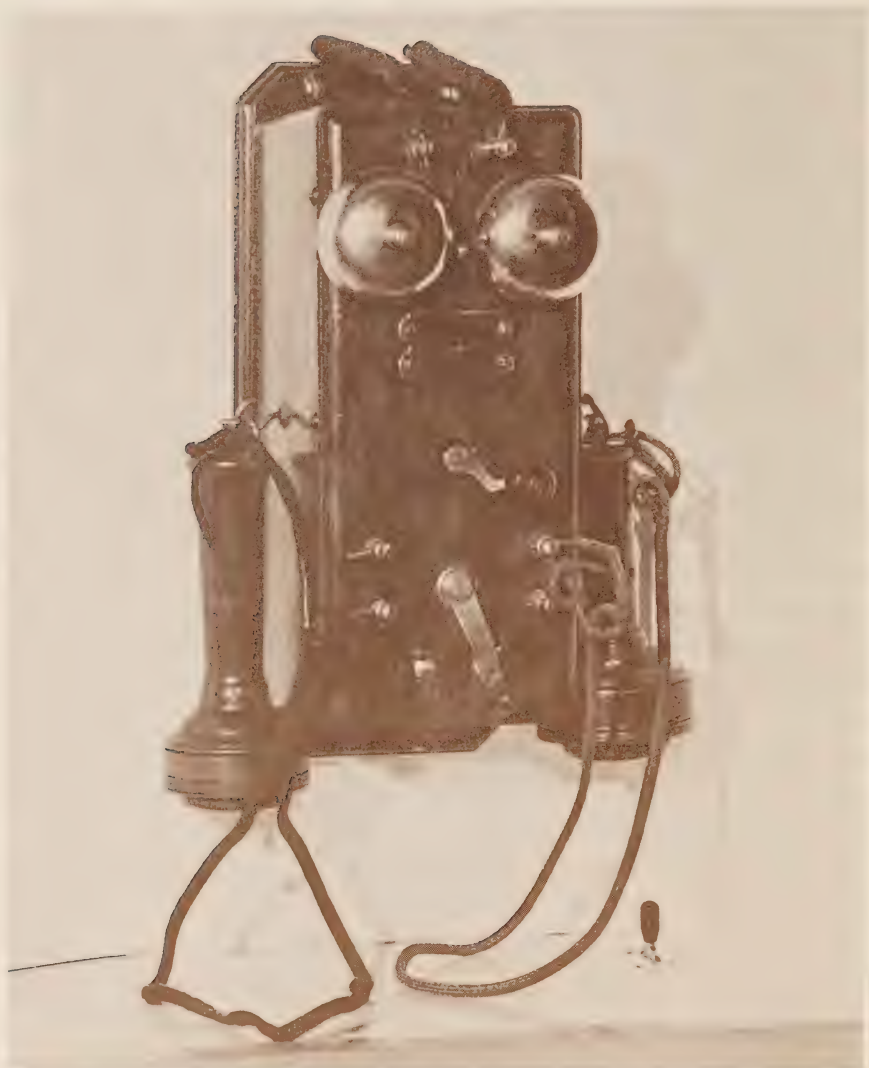
Another temporary committee which functioned in the late 1940's and early 1950's was the Service Station Committee. At that time, many small systems, and a few larger ones, did not operate their own exchanges. These "service station" companies, as they were known, provided only the telephones and line facilities which connected their subscribers with the switchboard of another company, usually the Bell Telephone Company. For this connection, they paid a monthly switching charge which was supposed to compensate the owner of the exchange for the use of his equipment and the services of his operators. The service station companies received no share of the long distance paid by their subscribers on the theory that toll revenue is derived from the use of the exchanges and interexchange circuits involved in a call, and they supplied no part of these particular facilities. They were, however, required to collect the charges for toll calls from their subscribers and pay them over to Bell.

For many years, these systems had been maintaining that they should be entitled to some sort of commission on tolls and the Service Station Committee was appointed to take

up their cause. When lengthy negotiations with Bell failed to produce results, one large service station system, the Union Telephone Co. Ltd. at Drayton, volunteered to act as a test case. The CITA retained Senator Arthur W. Roebuck, K.C., as its legal counsel and brought the issue before the Board of Transport Commissioners in Ottawa. After a long period of waiting, a hearing was finally held in March of 1954 but an adverse judgment was handed down. It is interesting to note that by the early 1970's, all systems which operated exclusively on a service station basis had disappeared from the independent field and relatively few service station phones were still in operation in the province.

In addition to its activities as a nationwide association, the CITA encouraged and sponsored regional associations in both Ontario and Quebec. In Ontario, the first of these to be established was the Western Counties Telephone Association which held its first convention in St. Thomas in 1909. Succeeding annual meetings were held in Waterford, Brantford and Ingersoll and from 1913 on, in London. Dr. W. Doan of the Harrietsville Telephone Association Ltd. was one of the founders and served as secretary-treasurer for over 30 years. The Western Counties Association was very active in arranging local plant seminars during the year at which independent system employees could exchange views and receive instruction from experts supplied by Bell and other larger companies on such technical matters as cable-splicing, switch-board maintenance and line construction. Seminars for system managers were also sponsored by the Western Counties Association in later years.

The Eastern Counties Independent Telephone Association was organized at a meeting held in Perth in 1947. The CITA had felt for some time that the 170 independent systems then operating east of Belleville should have their own regional association. A. L. Campbell of the South Crosby Rural Telephone Co. Ltd. and a member of the Board of Governors of the CITA was active in sponsoring the new organization and was elected the first president. Miss Berneice M. Eyre of the



1879: "William's Coffin" Magneto Wall Set
(Courtesy: Bell Canada)

Leeds and Grenville Telephone Co. Ltd. was appointed secretary-treasurer and served in that capacity during the 16 year life of the Association.

The annual convention of the Eastern Counties Association was held during the month of May and usually attracted a good turnout of interested telephone people. The 1949 meeting, however, was less than normally successful for a rather unusual reason. The account of the meeting in the next issue of the Canadian Telephone Journal points up one of the facts of life which governed the operation of most of the smaller rural systems. This was the fact that the men who managed and maintained them, did so as something quite secondary to their principle occupation--farming. The Journal article took the absent delegates to task as follows:

"Bad weather--(it was a bright, clear, l-o-v-e-l-y Spring day)--handicapped attendance at the Eastern Counties Annual Convention held in Smiths Falls, Ontario, on May 11th. Bad weather? It was an ideal day for seeding, plowing, or whatever else farmers think more important than their responsibilities to their shareholders, their telephone subscribers and those who elected them to office in charge of and responsible for the successful operation of their telephone business and service. Bad weather? It was ideal for those who sacrificed two or more days of their time and travelled many miles to assist (and were glad they did) but were greeted with explanations from too many that "they were too busy" to travel a few miles and give one day for their telephone interests.

Actually a goodly number of telephone people did attend the convention but many, many others within easy reaching distance did not. To those who worked hard to prepare the interesting programme the results were most disappointing."

For some years prior to the Second World War, the Ingersoll Telephone Co. Ltd. had hosted an annual get-together of independent linemen and managers as a "warm-up" for the London convention of the Western Counties Association. At the Ingersoll meeting, mutual problems were discussed and



Howard Palmer, retiring president, CITA,
congratulating "Wally" McDougall on his
election as president for 1971-72.

(Courtesy: Canadian Telephone Journal)

informal talks were heard on matters of practical interest.

Following the war, it was decided that these meetings should be started again and the CITA, in cooperation with the Staff Training Programme of the Western Counties Association, sponsored an annual Round-Table Conference in Chatham. Interest in the conference increased year by year and in 1954, the Southern Counties Independent Telephone Association was organized to formalize the activities of the Chatham conference.

The same year, another regional association was organized for systems in the Georgian Bay-Lake Huron Area. The Georgian Bay Telephone Association was also sponsored by the CITA and the Western Counties Association.

By 1966, the number of independent telephone companies in Ontario had been reduced to 126, a drop of over 300 systems in the previous 12 years. Membership in the regional associations was correspondingly down. It was apparent that the time had come for them to disband and form one strong provincial association. It was felt that there would also be an additional advantage in having a single association represent all independents in the province so that they would speak with one voice in their negotiations with the Ontario Telephone Service Commission and other government departments.

The result was that the Ontario Telephone Association was organized in June of 1966 at a meeting in London. It represented an amalgamation of the previously segmented associations and basically continued from where the largest of these, the Western Counties Independent Telephone Association, left off. Harold Schmidt of Baden, former secretary-treasurer of Western Counties, was appointed permanent secretary-treasurer of the new association. Don Young of the Blyth Municipal Telephone System was elected the first president. Among those who have since held that post for double terms are Howard Palmer of The Aylmer and Malahide Telephone Co. Ltd. and Ray Wightman of Wightman Telephone Ltd.

The two remaining associations, the CITA with its national responsibilities and the OTA, representing the Ontario independent systems, have additional problems to face each year as the telephone business becomes more and more complex. They will no doubt continue to pursue their objectives with the same enthusiasm as their predecessors.

INDIVIDUAL TELEPHONE SYSTEMS

The independent telephone industry has been closely associated with the modernization of rural Ontario.

As mentioned previously, almost 1,100 independent telephone systems operated at one time or another in the province. Certain basic information as to when they started, where they operated, and how they were disposed of, is on file in the office of the Ontario Telephone Service Commission. Each individual file also contains any further information it has been possible to obtain, such as old reports, newspaper clippings, pictures and personal recollections. A list of the systems for which a file has been opened is contained in Appendix I.

In the following pages are brief histories of some 50 of the systems picked more or less at random from the files. Some were chosen because they were representative of a certain type of system, some because their story was rather unique and some because they made an important contribution to the independent field. The fact that the history of a certain system has not been included does not necessarily mean that its story is any less interesting or important than those which do appear. The omission is only because of the fact that it would not be practical to cover all 1,100 systems in a booklet of this size.

It should be noted that, in many cases where a system sold out to another independent, its story will be included in that of the buyer-system if the latter happens to be one of those whose history is recorded in this chapter. Anyone interested in a particular system should, therefore, check its name in Appendix I. If an asterisk appears beside the name, its history has been included here. If no asterisk appears, its disposition should be checked and if sold to another independent, it is possible that the story of the purchaser is one of those in this chapter. For instance, the North Cavan

Telephone Co. Ltd. was sold to the Cavan Rural Telephone Co. Ltd. in 1949. The latter company was sold to Docon Telephones Ltd. in 1957, and Docon's name was changed to Durham Telephones Ltd. in 1958. While there is no individual write-up on the first three systems, there is one on Durham Telephones Ltd. which includes mention of the others.

Austin Telephones Ltd. was an excellent example of a successful, family-owned independent telephone system. Three generations of Austins were connected with the business during its fifty year existence.

D. S. Austin, founder of the company, was the proprietor of a general store in the Village of Wooler near Trenton. He was also the Bell Telephone agent in the village and had a Bell long distance phone in his store. In 1910, he received an attractive offer for the store business. At the same time, he heard of a telephone system that was for sale. This was the Mount Pleasant Telephone Company of some 275 phones owned by Robert Dawson of Castleton. Mr. Austin bought the 27 phones which Dawson had been operating in the Wooler area and this formed the nucleus of his new system which he called the Murray-Brighton Telephone Company. A year or so later, Mr. Dawson sold the rest of his company to three newly established municipal systems: the Cramahe Municipal Telephone System at Castleton, the Percy Municipal Telephone System at Warkworth, and the Haldimand Municipal Telephone System at Grafton.

At the same time D. S. Austin got into the telephone business, his son, A. G. (Jack) Austin, completed school and joined his father in the new venture. They canvassed all the farmers in the area trying to persuade them to take service and gradually built up the number of subscribers, although their sales campaign was not without its early problems. They found that former Mount Pleasant Telephone Co. subscribers had been required to supply their own telephones and a section of pole line. Consequently, they enjoyed a very low annual rate. These customers had to be reimbursed for their cash outlay with free telephone service for a year or so. Their neighbours, who had not been subscribers of the former system, in many cases were very suspicious of the telephone. Some of them were sure that installation of a phone would greatly increase the chance of a house being struck by lightning. One farmer was convinced that all the birds in the country would soon be killed if they were foolish enough to perch on telephone wires.



D. S. Austin
President
Murray-Brighton Telephone Co. Ltd.
(Courtesy: Canadian Telephone Journal)

By the early 1920's, the Murray-Brighton Telephone Company was operating almost 300 phones, most of these on its own exchange at Wooler and a few on a service station basis on the Bell exchange at Frankford. In 1924, it purchased the Frankford exchange from Bell including some 100 telephones and during the same year was incorporated as a limited company.

During the depression, the company lost many customers who could no longer afford the luxury of a telephone but it managed to supplement its telephone income by contracting the building of lines for Ontario Hydro and was able to carry on. By 1938, when D. S. Austin died, the number of phones operated by the company was back to its pre-war total of approximately 400.

Following the depression, Jack Austin was faced with a new challenge. The Bata Shoe Company, a worldwide organization with headquarters in Czechoslovakia, could see trouble coming in Europe and decided to move to Canada. It purchased 1,300 acres of land just south of Frankford and started to build a huge factory and new head office with a town site for employees. To properly serve an organization of this size presented quite a problem for a small telephone system but the Austin family managed to finance the purchase and installation of the necessary new equipment without outside help.

In 1946, it was decided that the company had grown to a size which made it advantageous to reorganize. Austin Telephones Ltd. was formed to take over the Murray-Brighton Telephone Co. Ltd. The new company continued to expand during the post-war years and by the mid-1950's, Jack Austin was operating a system of more than 1,000 telephones. Unfortunately, he had also developed ulcers and was ordered to slow down. He felt that this would be difficult if he was going to continue to direct the operations of a growing telephone company which must soon convert to dial operation to keep up with the times.

He, therefore, began negotiations with the Bell Telephone Company and in 1956 concluded an agreement whereby

the system was sold to Bell but with takeover to be delayed until Bell had completed the conversion of the plant to dial operation. The Austins continued to operate the company until the new dial system was put into service on January 1st, 1960.

The Austin family had a unique record of service to the independent telephone industry. The father, son and grandson all served as president of the Canadian Independent Telephone Association; D. S. Austin in 1934, Jack in 1945 and his son, Carl, in 1954.

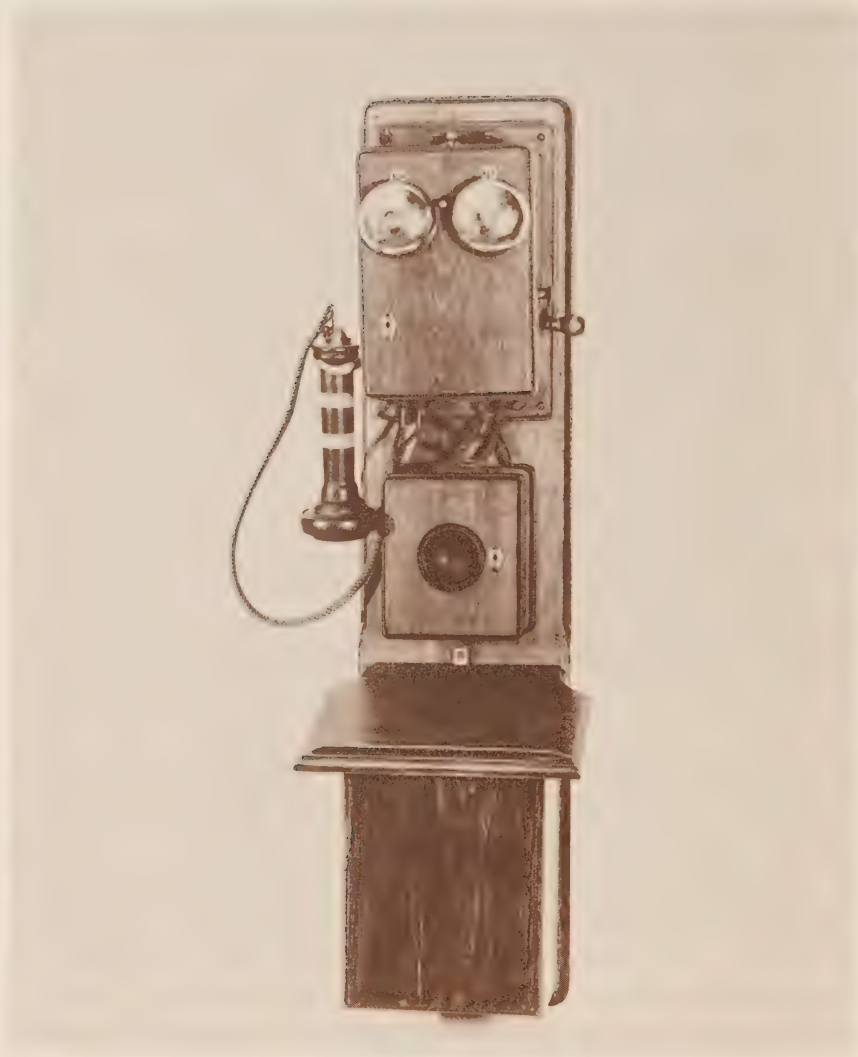
The Town of Aylmer is situated in one of the most prosperous and picturesque districts in Southern Ontario and is the centre of a famous agricultural region. Canneries, milk processing plants and tobacco manufacturers provide a ready market for the produce of the area. The Aylmer and Malahide Telephone Co. Ltd., with its three modern dial exchanges at Aylmer, Port Burwell and Straffordville, operates more than 7,000 phones in the area. Through its wholly-owned subsidiary, East Elgin Cable TV Ltd., it provides cable TV service to some 1,600 customers in Aylmer and the neighbouring Village of Orwell. It is the only operating telephone company in Canada owning a subsidiary which holds a licence for a cable TV distribution system.

The company has had a long and interesting history from its small beginnings shortly after the turn of the century to its present position as one of the largest independent telephone systems in the province. Its growth is the result of a number of amalgamations and takeovers of one system by another.

Around 1902, three small systems were established in the general area. Dr. J. J. Kingston of Aylmer built the Dr. Kingston Telephone Line from Aylmer to Lakeview. The South Bayham and Malahide Telephone Co. Ltd., also known as the South Malahide and Bayham Telephone Co. Ltd., served from Lakeview to Port Burwell. The Cohoon Telephone Company owned by Edgar Cohoon and R. H. Cudney served in Port Burwell and vicinity. The Cohoon system was also known as the South Malahide and Burwell Telephone Company.

Telephone company operators in the area seemed to have had a fondness for double-barrelled names but little regard for the sequence in which the names were used.

In any case, the three systems operated separately for about 10 years. In 1913, they merged to form the South Malahide Telephone Company.



1880: Blake Magneto Wall Telephone
(Courtesy: Bell Canada)

At about the same time, the Aylmer and Mapleton Telephone Company was started by Dr. Augustine of Aylmer who built a line from his office to William Baron's store in the Village of Mapleton. The line was a one wire grounded circuit about nine miles long and it soon had over 40 "parties" on it. There was no central exchange and all the rings were in code so that getting a call through must have been something of an adventure. However, the system served its purpose and was a very inexpensive method of communication since it was a cooperative effort with each customer supplying his own telephone and helping with the building and maintenance of the line. Mr. L. M. Brown, one of the subscribers, was appointed manager of the company (without pay). At the end of each year, he would drive around to visit each of the 40 odd customers and collect their share of out-of-pocket expenses which usually amounted to only a couple of dollars. At one annual meeting, the manager's report was given in one sentence: "I didn't collect any money this year because I didn't spend any; cash on hand, five dollars and forty-nine cents".

Shortly after the formation of the South Malahide Telephone Company, it took over the Aylmer and Mapleton system. In 1922, the combined company bought the Bell exchange in Aylmer with its 45 phones. A few years later, it also acquired Bell's interests in Port Burwell. The company continued to grow, and in 1928 it was reorganized and the name changed to Aylmer and Malahide Telephone Company Limited.

The company further expanded its operations in the 1930's by buying the Malahide and Bayham Telephone Association Limited which owned 344 phones and an exchange at Richmond. It also bought the western halves of the Houghton and Bayham Telephone Co. Ltd., also known as the Bayham and Houghton Telephone Co. Ltd., and the Houghton, Bayham and Tillsonburg Telephone Co. Ltd., also known as the Bayham, Houghton and Tillsonburg Telephone Co. Ltd. The eastern portions of these two systems were taken over by the Norfolk and Tillsonburg Telephone Co. Ltd. which sold out in 1947 to the Southern

Ontario Telephone Co. Ltd., a company which was sold to the Bell Telephone Company in 1950.

In 1952, the Aylmer and Malahide Company bought out the Bell Telephone Company's interests in the Village of Springfield and turned over to Bell its service station phones at Tillsonburg in order to consolidate the system in that area. Its final expansionary move was the purchase in 1973 of the Yarmouth Rural Telephone Co. Ltd. at New Sarum. The company can no longer expand by acquiring other independent systems because its area is now completely surrounded by Bell Canada exchanges.

Financing the system's expansion and modernization has not always been easy. At one time, in the early 1920's, the directors signed personal notes to obtain a loan of \$25,000. On another occasion the shareholders were asked to lend money to their company to finance the purchase of improved facilities. Many of them did and their confidence in the company was justified by the fact that all such loans were cleared up within three years. In later years, large sums of money had to be borrowed on the public money market to finance modernization programs such as conversion of the system to dial operation at a cost of more than a million dollars. The system's present program, designed to provide individual and two-party service in all rural areas is also a very expensive undertaking.

The conversion of the system to dial was made in a series of moves which began with conversion of the Mount Salem exchange in 1957. Port Burwell followed in 1961 and Straffordville in 1963. A new building costing over \$90,000 was erected in Aylmer to house the business office and dialling equipment when the Aylmer exchange was converted in 1965.

Among the many men responsible for the success of the Aylmer and Malahide Telephone Co. Ltd., three are deserving of special mention.

One of these is Spencer McConnell who, when he retired in 1971, had been president of the company for more than 40 years and a director for almost 50. Mr. McConnell was the founder of McConnell Nursery Ltd. of Port Burwell, Canada's largest nursery, which ships its products to all parts of the world. He first became interested in the telephone company in 1922 when he attended a shareholders' meeting to see if something could be done to obtain long distance connection with the Bell Telephone Company. He was promptly elected to the Board of Directors and within a year had realized his objective. Not only did he serve the telephone company long and faithfully but he was also active in many other community organizations. His contribution to the independent telephone industry was fittingly recognized when he was chosen as Telephone Man of the Year at the 1970 convention of the Canadian Independent Telephone Association.

Another man who contributed a great deal to the success of the company was J. Carlton Dance, son of one of the founders of the Aylmer and Mapleton system and secretary and managing director of the Aylmer and Malahide Telephone Co. Ltd. for 14 years prior to his death in 1962. In addition to his duties with the telephone company, Mr. Dance served for many years on the executive of the Canadian Independent Telephone Association and for four years was a member of the Ontario Telephone Service Commission.

Mr. Dance was succeeded by Howard O. Palmer, one of the directors of the company, who retired from his business as a general contractor to take over its management. Mr. Palmer continued the dial conversion program started by Mr. Dance. It was under Mr. Palmer's guidance that the major conversion job at the Aylmer exchange was carried out. He also founded East Elgin Cable TV Ltd., a profitable subsidiary of the telephone company which is expanding every year. Another project of which Mr. Palmer is particularly proud is the program whereby flat-rate individual and two-party service is to be provided in rural areas. By 1975, several rural sections of the company's territory were already being supplied with this



Howard O. Palmer
Managing-Director
Aylmer and Malahide Telephone Co. Ltd.
(Courtesy: Canadian Telephone Journal)

service; and when the program is completed, multi-party service will be a thing of the past. Mr. Palmer, like Mr. McConnell and Mr. Dance, has also made a considerable contribution to the independent telephone industry as a whole through his service on the executive and as president of both the Canadian Independent Telephone Association and the Ontario Telephone Association. In recognition of this, he was selected as Telephone Man of the Year at the 1975 CITA convention.

The Beatty Telephone System was one of the many independent systems in Ontario which were started by doctors as a convenience to themselves and their patients.

Dr. Alexander Carruthers Beatty lived in Garden Hill, a village about nine miles north of Port Hope. His system, which he started as a hobby in 1895, was one of the few "independents" in business in Ontario before the turn of the century. His original installation consisted of four telephones within a radius of ten miles of the village. These were used by patients in order to call the doctor when he was needed. In the early days, no charge was made for the service, and Dr. Beatty and his wife personally operated the small switchboard located in his home. The doctor was an uninhibited eavesdropper and when on duty at the switchboard, he liked to listen in on conversations, as many people did to get the news. He was also a man of strong opinions and would often feel moved to break in on a conversation and give his views on the topic under discussion. This might have disconcerted city people, used to the impersonal attitude of Bell operators, but the doctor's subscribers knew his ways and took it in their stride.

His knowledge of the technical side of the telephone business was not extensive but he seemed to be able to keep things going. If something went wrong with the switchboard, he would tinker with it until, sometimes to his own surprise, it started to work again. If someone reported a line broken in front of their place, the doctor would simply tell the caller to get a ladder and fix it himself.

However, as time went on, more and more farmers asked that their homes be "hooked up" to the doctor's system. By the time of his death in 1946, it was serving more than 200 subscribers on 100 miles of lines. As the system grew, more help was needed and Mrs. Beatty's sister, Mrs. R. W. Gardiner, became the first full-time switchboard operator at the age of 14. Her daughter, Ona, later became an operator and was with the system for some 25 years until it was converted to dial

in 1967. When Dr. Beatty's cousin, Hugh Carruthers, was killed in an accident, the doctor "adopted" Mr. Carruthers' young family who took up residence across the street from the Beatty house. One daughter, Edith, recalls that she used to help out on the switchboard when she was 12 years of age. A son, Alex Carruthers, long time M.P.P. for Durham, learned to assist the line repair man and managed the company after the doctor's death in 1946 until it was sold 10 years later to the neighbouring Port Hope Telephone Company Limited.

The Port Hope Company operated the system on a manual basis for a further 10 years, until 1967 when a new dial office was installed at Garden Hill. The following year, the entire Port Hope system was sold to Bell Canada, but Dr. Beatty's little telephone company still lives on in the memories of old timers of the area.

The first telephone line in the Thornbury area was a toll circuit built by The Bell Telephone Company between Thornbury and Collingwood. The line was constructed through the rural area via the Village of Ravenna because the federal Board of Railway Commissioners refused to allow a line to be built along the lakeshore where it would have to cross over railroad tracks and telegraph lines.

In 1907, a few years after the toll circuit had been built, the owner of a fairly large lumber, hoop and stave mill in Collingwood Township approached Bell for local service. Bell agreed to put another line on the same poles and extend it out to his mill if a total of four customers could be obtained along the route. One of the four who subscribed to this first local service was a young farmer, Burton S. Carefoot, who served as a commissioner of the Beaver Valley System for the 30 years prior to its sale, the last 15 years of which he was chairman of the Commission.

As the years went by, a few more farmers obtained service on the line but Bell was not anxious to serve the rural area. Many nights Mr. Carefoot's sleep was disturbed by neighbours wanting to use his phone to make an emergency call to one of the two doctors in town.

Finally, a group of farmers got together and petitioned the Township of Collingwood to establish a "municipal" telephone system in the area. Collingwood Township turned them down. They then approached the council of the Township of Euphrasia which agreed to sponsor a system. The system was built in 1912 and the following year reported a total of 225 phones. Subscribers were required to sign a contract to take service for 20 years at an annual rate of \$12.

During its early years, only local service was provided through the system's own switchboard. There was no connection to the Bell long distance network, nor to Bell phones in the villages of Thornbury and Clarksburg. This was

very inconvenient to most customers, especially businessmen. Many of the latter subscribed to both systems and had two phones on their premises. Finally, in 1917, an agreement was reached with the Bell Telephone Company whereby the municipal system purchased all Bell's rural lines and surrendered the telephone services it had in the urban areas of Clarksburg and Thornbury. It also closed its central office. All its phones were connected to the Bell switchboard at Thornbury and provided with long distance connection and switching service at a fixed rate per phone per year.

Following this progressive move, the system continued to grow. The number of customers reached a top figure of approximately 450, of which almost 200 were "subscribers" who had pledged their land as security against the debts of the system and were entitled to share in the proceeds if it were sold.

By 1960, there was an ever increasing demand for more modern service and, after investigating the feasibility of converting to dial on their own, the commissioners decided that it would be wise to have the Bell Telephone Company take over the area. Bell proceeded to rebuild the entire outside plant and, on January 15, 1962, began to provide service on a common battery basis, with dial service to follow in a few years.

None of the "subscribers" of the Beaver Valley Municipal Telephone System was ever called upon to contribute any capital investment to the building or maintenance of the system but all received a nominal cash payment when its affairs were wound up. Bell had made an allowance of \$15,000 toward the cost of removing old plant and equipment, and the system was able to salvage quite a bit of the old equipment and sell it to other independent companies which were still operating manual switchboards.

When the system was dissolved in 1962, the three commissioners were Burton Carefoot, Edgar Wallace and Russell Thompson. William A. Armstrong was secretary-treasurer and manager.

The Village of Beeton, in Simcoe County, was so named because one of the town fathers was an internationally known beekeeper and the area had become well known for its production of honey. The village celebrated its centennial in 1974 and the history of telephone service in the community goes back almost as far as the incorporation of the village.

The Bell Telephone Company installed a switchboard in J. F. Darby's drug store in 1885. It started in business with three customers, Mr. Darby, the Beeton Printing Company and F. McPherson, who was also a printer. The system in the village grew rapidly but Bell did not extend its lines into the surrounding rural area. Several small independent systems were established to meet demands for service.

W. J. Anderson operated a line to Alliston, Tottenham, Penville and Newton Robinson, and Dr. R. S. Brewster built a line to serve his rural customers. A man named Denis Nolan operated a line with 25 phones which was switched by Bell's Bradford exchange, and also one with the same number of phones which was switched at Cookstown.

In 1911, these small rural systems amalgamated to form the Beeton Telephone Company Limited. Dr. Brewster and Mr. Nolan were elected directors of the new company at the first shareholders meeting. Other officers elected were: W. J. Abernathy, president; Frank Wilcox, vice-president; W. O'C. Ahern, secretary; and Cyrus Dunham and John Reynolds, directors. Mr. Wilcox became president in 1913 and served in that capacity for almost 30 years.

The system prospered. By the early 1920's it was operating almost 800 phones on a "service station" basis from the Bell exchanges at Beeton, Alliston, Bradford, Cookstown and Tottenham. Bell owned the exchanges and served in the villages, while the Beeton system served the surrounding rural areas and paid Bell a monthly fee per phone for switching service.



1890: Cast Brass Desk Set

(Courtesy: Bell Canada)

For many years, N. P. McDonald, the local Bell manager in Beeton, also managed the Beeton Telephone System. The Beeton system owned its own office building in Beeton and Bell rented space in it for its switchboard and business office.

In common with other telephone systems, the company lost customers during the depression but regained them following the Second World War. By the mid-fifties it was serving more than a thousand subscribers. By this time, the Bell Telephone Company had embarked on a dial conversion program in the area, and since the Beeton company's switching was all done at Bell exchanges, it was faced with the prospect of having to raise a large amount of capital to install dial phones and rebuild its lines to bring them up to dial standards. Rather than do this, the shareholders decided to sell the system to Bell and get out of business. The selling price agreed upon was \$50,000 and the system was taken over on May 7, 1957. Bell constructed a new building in Beeton to house the dial equipment for that area and the new dial service was put into operation in 1959.

Through the years, many people were connected with the Beeton Telephone Company. In addition to the men already mentioned, some of those who served the company were: E. Dale, F. Butler, R. Brown, R. Armstrong, H. Bannister, H. Harmon, E. Hill and S. R. McKelvey. Dr. McKelvey was also a member of the Ontario Telephone Service Commission during the years 1963-1971. Some of the women who contributed to the success of the system were Mary Brawley, Ella McMicken, Hazel Hamell, Susan Irwin, Isabel Kettle, Delphine Speck, Shiela Aitken, Shirley Lake and Lois Barton.

While many people contributed to the success of the Bethesda and Stouffville Telephone Co. Ltd., one man's name stands out above the rest. He was Alexander D. Bruce, one of the founding directors and president of the company for 50 years.

Mr. Bruce could remember, as a lad of eight, hearing his father read from The Globe the news of Alexander Graham Bell's test of his telephone when he spoke from Brantford to Paris, Ontario. The newspaper also gave some information on the building of a telephone instrument, and Mr. Bruce and his older brother tried unsuccessfully to build a system of their own out of two mustard cans and some stovepipe wire. In later years, Mr. Bruce liked to claim that this probably made him the first promoter of telephony in York County.

His interest in the telephone was revived in 1904 when the postmaster and owner of a general store in Bethesda, David W. Heise, called a meeting of local businessmen to consider a proposal to build a telephone line from Bethesda to Stouffville. Mr. Heise had approached the Bell Telephone Company several times in the hope that it would provide this service which he considered would be of great benefit to the community, but he finally became convinced that if telephone service was to be obtained, it would have to be through local effort. Nine men attended the meeting and decided to organize the Bethesda and Stouffville Telephone Association.

By August 1, 1904, 19 members had joined the Association and paid a \$100 membership fee. By the end of the year, the little company had 47 telephones in service. Some of the subscribers did not wish to become members of the Association, in which case they were required to pay sufficient rental in advance to cover the capital cost of installing their own telephone.

The company was faced with its first big problem when it applied to the Bell Telephone Company for connection

with the long distance network. It was informed that this would only be supplied on condition that the company refrain from installing any phones in the Village of Stouffville. Five residents of Stouffville had already signed up as members of the association. It was felt that the company could not break faith with these members and Bell's proposition was turned down. This proved in time to be a wise decision because the company was forced to cultivate close operating relationships with neighbouring independent systems.

This led, in turn, to the formation in 1905 of the York and Ontario Independent Telephone Union which soon had 11 member systems with free exchange of messages throughout the entire union. The Bell Telephone Company had nothing to offer that was comparable to this service and business boomed. The increase in numbers of subscribers in the member systems soon led to long distance circuits becoming busier and busier. Finally, the congestion of traffic became so great that a schedule of toll rates had to be established.

While the association had served its purpose in getting a telephone system established, some of the members were concerned with the unlimited liability that they shared in this type of organization. A company was incorporated in the summer of 1905 with authorized capital of \$40,000 divided into shares with a par value of \$25 each. Members of the association received four shares in the new company. At the 1906 meeting of the shareholders of the new company, a seven man Board of Directors was elected, made up of the following:

President: A. D. Bruce
 Secretary: D. W. Heise
 Treasurer: J. H. Ratcliffe
 Directors: S. P. Foote
 Dr. W. A. Sangster
 Walter Scott
 Dr. F. A. Dales

This Board of Directors probably set some sort of world record because all members served continuously without a break for 26 years until the death of one of them in 1932. Another member of the management team with a record of long



Thomas B. Rae
Secretary-treasurer
Bethesda and Stouffville Telephone Co. Ltd.
(Courtesy: Canadian Telephone Journal)

service was Thomas B. Rae, who started with the company as a night operator in 1911 and shortly after became secretary-treasurer, a capacity in which he served until his retirement in 1957. Mr. Rae was also treasurer of the Canadian Independent Telephone Association for many years.

By 1911, the company had grown to a total of over 500 phones and had completed a satisfactory connecting agreement with the Bell Telephone Company for long distance service and for switching of its subscribers in the Aurora and Richmond Hill areas at the Bell exchanges in those villages. The company continued to expand and reached a total of almost 1,200 phones in the early 1930's but, like almost every other business, suffered during the depression. Many customers could not afford to keep their phones and revenues dropped 30 percent. During six lean years, the company operated at a loss but by 1938, it was again reporting a profit; and by 1942 was again operating 1,200 phones.

In 1952, an exchange was made with the Bell Telephone Company whereby Bell took over the 220 service station phones owned by the company which had been switched at Bell's exchanges at Aurora and Richmond Hill, and Bethesda and Stouffville took over the Bell exchange at Claremont. A further progressive step was taken in 1955 when a dial exchange was installed at Gormley to serve subscribers in that neighbourhood.

Population growth in the area was such, however, that the company was hard pressed to meet the demands for telephone service. By the late 1950's, the number of phones had increased to almost 3,000 and the management was faced with the necessity of converting the whole system to dial operation in order to keep up with the times. Since this would have required a very large capital expenditure, the directors decided that the time had come to sell out. An agreement with the Bell Telephone Company was approved by the shareholders at a meeting held in early 1960, and on May 19th of that year, Bell took over the system.

The Blanshard Municipal Telephone System is the second largest municipal system in Ontario. It serves a rural area of approximately one thousand square miles in the Stratford-St. Mary's district, operating a total of some 3,500 phones from four dial exchanges at Sebringville, Kirkton, Granton and Uniondale. It was the first system in the province to do away with the old multi-party rural line.

When its exchanges at Granton and Uniondale were converted to dial, sufficient equipment was installed to provide all customers with either individual or two-party service and the system has embarked on a program to provide the same service at its two larger exchanges at Kirkton and Sebringville. When this program is complete, in a year or so, all Blanshard rural customers will enjoy the same flat rate individual and two-party service as that normally provided only in urban centres.

The history of the Blanshard system goes back to Christmas Day of 1898, when Dr. J. Paul of Sebringville and Dr. Louis Eckert, the local veterinary surgeon, established a small system of five local phones in the village, with lines to several neighbouring communities and to the City of Stratford. In the early years, there were two central offices, a 10 plug switchboard in Dr. Eckert's house, which was operated by his family, and a similar board in Dr. Paul's home. The first two operators in the Paul home were Miss Pearl Gardiner and Miss Maude Borland.

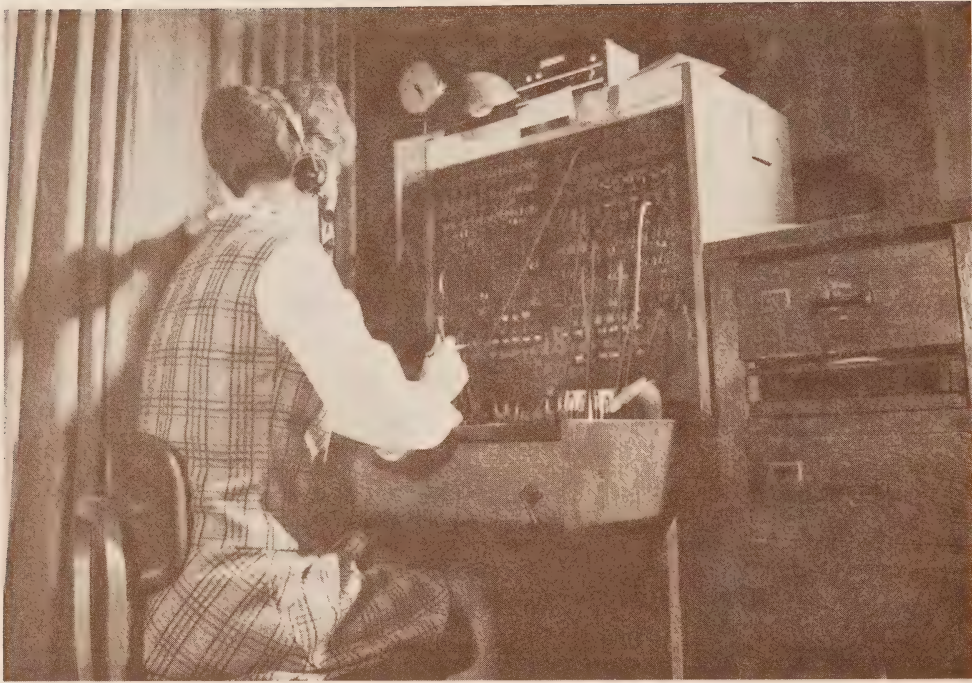
By the time the partnership was dissolved in 1916, the system was operating almost 300 phones and had become known as the Sebringville Telephone System. Two years later, it was incorporated as a limited company, and in 1928 it was taken over by the Blanshard Municipal Telephone System.

Meanwhile, in another part of the present Blanshard area, two other doctors had started a small system in the Village of Granton called the Lang and Lang system. It operated from 1902 until 1913, when it was taken over by the St. Mary's,

Kirkton and Exeter Telephone Co. Ltd. The latter system had been established in 1904 when a group of Kirkton area men hired two brothers, Robert and James Carroll, to build a telephone line to St. Mary's, a distance of 17 miles. The Carroll brothers cut suitable poles from a swamp in the early spring and, as soon as the frost was out of the ground, began digging post-holes and erecting the line. All the work was done by hand and the brothers worked 10 hours a day for \$2.50 each per day. The first switchboard was located in Hoskin's Bake Shop and was attended only when the bell rang. Later, however, many more people were anxious to use the new service and the company bought a small building in Kirkton and installed a larger switchboard attended by a full-time operator.

The St. Mary's, Kirkton and Exeter Telephone Co. Ltd. owned almost 800 phones by 1916. It amalgamated that year with the St. Mary's-Medina Telephone Co. Ltd., which had been founded in 1907 and served approximately 150 customers from an exchange at Medina. The new company was renamed the St. Mary's, Medina and Kirkton Telephone Co. Ltd. and it continued in business until 1923 when it suffered a crippling loss in an ice storm and was unable to finance a new building program. The Blanshard Municipal Telephone System was established to take it over and township debentures in the amount of \$66,000 were issued to finance the project. Early commissioners were Dr. C. A. Campbell, Sidney Adamson and Samuel Tufts.

The Blanshard system started in business with approximately 1,200 phones and acquired almost 400 more when it purchased the Sebringville Telephone Co. Ltd. in 1928. Like other telephone companies, it lost telephones during the war, but was faced with a greatly increased demand for service in the post-war years. This demand first became evident in the Sebringville exchange area, probably because of its proximity to the city of Stratford. When plans were made by the Bell Telephone Company to convert its Stratford exchange to dial, the Blanshard management decided to enter into a long term program of modernization, with the conversion of the Sebringville exchange as the first step. The Sebringville office was cut over to dial on December 4, 1960,



Blanshard Municipal Telephone System
The old manual exchange at Granton

(Courtesy: Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food)

coincident with the cutover of Stratford, and toll-free calling was provided between the two exchanges.

Four years later, the Kirkton exchange was also converted to dial, with toll-free calling to St. Mary's and Exeter, and a new building was constructed to house the dial equipment and a business office for the system.

With the conversion of the two larger exchanges successfully completed, the management then turned its attention to the two smaller exchanges at Granton and Medina, with 350 and 300 phones respectively. Both were rather small to carry the capital cost of conversion, and customers at Granton were demanding toll-free calling to London since their business and social interests were concentrated in that direction.

The Ontario Telephone Service Commission held a public hearing in the Granton area in September 1966 when the whole problem was discussed and various solutions suggested. Following the hearing, the Blanshard commissioners proposed a plan for service which was unique in Ontario at that time. The plan included conversion of the exchange to dial, toll-free service to London and adjacent exchanges and the provision of flat-rate individual and two-party service throughout the whole exchange area. While much more costly than the normal dial conversion program, it was considered that customers in the area would be willing to pay rates for this top quality service which would be high enough to carry the investment. A schedule of rates was submitted for approval and when advertised in the area drew no adverse comments; in fact a number of customers wrote in support of the plan. Work was started at once and the Granton exchange was cut over to the new service in the summer of 1969, the first exchange in the province to provide this higher grade of service to a rural area.

The commissioners then decided to proceed with a similar program for the Medina exchange area. Plans were made to install a new dial exchange at Uniondale, which was a more central location than the Village of Medina. The exchange and

outside plant were engineered to have sufficient capacity to provide individual and two-party service throughout the area, and it was assumed that toll-free calling to St. Mary's could be established. However, by the time a formal request was made to Bell Canada for Extended Area Service between Uniondale and St. Mary's, Bell had found itself in a capital bind and cancelled all further plans for the provision of such service throughout its system.

The Blanshard system was, therefore, refused the necessary connection. When an application for approval of a rate schedule for the new exchange was advertised in the area, a great number of complaints were received. The complaints were not concerned so much with the level of rates, as they were with the fact that a toll charge would still apply on calls to the Town of St. Mary's, which was located immediately adjacent to the northern boundary of the Uniondale exchange area.

The Ontario Telephone Service Commission called another public hearing in April 1971 and invited representatives of both the Blanshard system and Bell Canada to be present. The Blanshard spokesman advised that his system was prepared to supply Extended Area Service coincident with the cutover of the Uniondale exchange to dial which was due to take place in December 1971 but the Bell representative declared that his company would not be able to cooperate until at least three or four years after that date.

Following the hearing, however, Bell Canada reviewed the situation and agreed to provide its share of the necessary Extended Area Service equipment by the summer of 1973. The Commission, therefore, approved two sets of rates, one to go into effect with the cutover to dial service, and a higher schedule to go into effect when toll-free calling to St. Mary's was supplied.

With the provision of flat-rate individual and two-party service in the Granton and Medina rural areas, it was to be expected that customers in the Kirkton and Sebringville exchanges would demand the same, and the system management has



1890: Magneto Wall Phone

(Courtesy: Bell Canada)

made long range plans to meet their demands. Sections of the two larger exchange areas have already been upgraded, and other portions will be rebuilt as finances permit. The old rural multi-party line will soon be a thing of the past throughout the whole Blanshard system, and there is no doubt that an example has been set which will eventually be followed in better developed rural areas throughout the province. Several other independent systems have already followed this example and have started similar programs.

The first telephone in Bolton was installed in 1888 when the Bell Telephone Company built a long distance line from Toronto through Weston, Woodbridge, Bolton, Caledon, Orangeville and Grand Valley to Arthur.

There was only one phone in Bolton for several years and it was used for long distance calls only. It was located in the drug store of S. J. Snell, whose advertisement in the Bolton Enterprise at that time stated "For dyspepsia and liver complaint you have a printed guarantee on every bottle of Shiloh's Vitalizer. It never fails to cure".

In 1905, Bell built a rural line to Caledon East to serve 12 new subscribers and by the end of 1906 there were 26 customers served out of Bolton.

On May 14, 1908, the Bolton Telephone Co. Ltd. was incorporated. Later that year it took over Bell's local lines in the area and became Bell's agent for long distance service. The initial spade work in organizing the company was done by F. N. Leavens, publisher of the Bolton Enterprise. Associated with him on the original board of directors were A. D. McFall, the first president; Robert Smith, Henry Rutherford and William A. Caldwell.

Mr. Caldwell managed the system during the years of construction and until his death in 1930, when Mr. Leavens took over as manager. He continued in that capacity until his death in 1941.

Within a couple of years of its small beginning, the Bolton Telephone Co. Ltd. had extended its lines into the Townships of Albion, Caledon, Chingacousy, Vaughan and King and was reporting ownership of more than 500 phones. The switchboard was first located in a corner of the Bolton Enterprise office but those quarters were soon proved inadequate and a new central office was built by the company on the main street of Bolton. It was considered to be one of the best

among the independent companies in the province.

The system grew slowly but steadily and was operating approximately 750 phones in 1933, the year Dr. Fred W. Routley of Maple bought a controlling interest in the company. He had been a major stockholder in the Woodbridge and Vaughan Telephone Co. Ltd. and had recently sold his interest in that company to the Bell Telephone Company. Following Dr. Routley's death in 1951, management of the company was taken over by the executors of his estate.

Following the war, demand for phones in the Bolton area increased rapidly. Toronto's suburban growth was moving in that direction and many new families were settling in the district. By 1956, the company was operating more than 1,200 phones and was faced with a large capital expenditure if it intended to modernize and stay in business. The executors of Dr. Routley's estate decided that the time had come to sell out and an agreement was made with Bell for purchase of the system for \$80,000.

The year after Bell took over, the Bolton exchange was converted to common battery operation, so that it was no longer necessary for telephone users to crank a magneto generator to signal the operator, and no batteries were required in the subscriber's phone. A few years later the whole system was converted to dial.

The Brooke Municipal Telephone System, which serves a large rural area in the County of Lambton, owned a total of almost 1,500 phones in 1975. Approximately 757 are connected to the system's own dial exchange at the Village of Inwood and the remainder are switched by the Bell Canada exchanges at Watford and Alvinston.

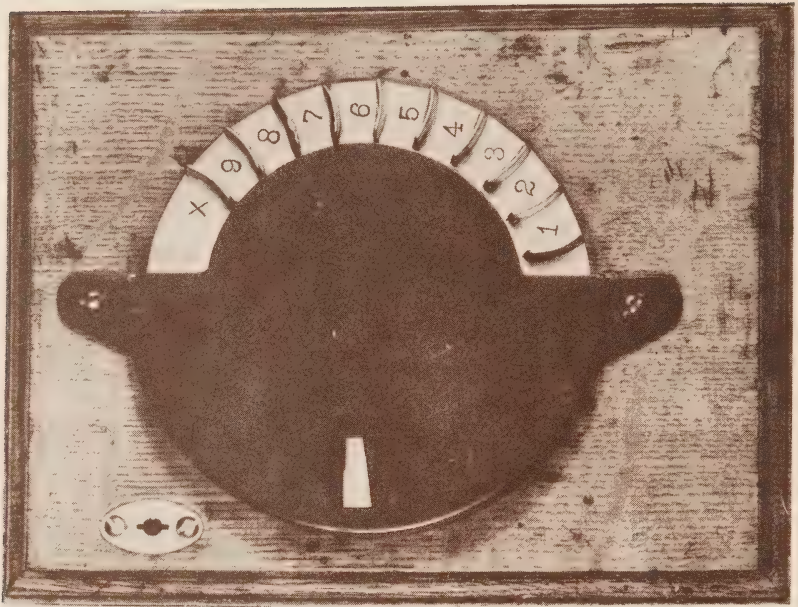
Probably the earliest telephone service in the area was provided by a line built in 1883 from Adam Clark's sawmill in Alvinston to the Glenelg flour mill. A few years later, the Bell Telephone Company opened an office in Alvinston and provided service to a few local subscribers.

The earliest line in the Watford area was built by Drs. McLeay and Gibson in 1894. The line was rebuilt by Dr. Gibson and Dr. J. E. McGillicuddy in 1907 and served six customers. Dr. Gibson sold his share in the line to Joseph Zavitz in 1910 and the line became known as the McGillicuddy and Zavitz Telephone System. It was taken over by the Brooke Municipal Telephone System in 1915.

In 1910, the Inwood Rural Telephone Co. Ltd. was organized. The original shareholders were Dr. C. L. Taylor, W. R. Dawson, Johnson Vance, James Brown and R. B. Warner. A switchboard was installed in the Royal Exchange Hotel, with Miss Iva Lorrimer the first operator.

In 1911 the Brooke Municipal Telephone System was established at Alvinston to provide service in the rural area around the village. It expanded rapidly and by 1914 had almost 350 phones. It doubled this number when it purchased the Inwood Rural system the same year for \$17,500.

Roy Chapman, who had been a lineman with the Inwood Rural Telephone Co. Ltd., was appointed manager of the combined system, a position he was to hold for more than 50 years. Before their marriage, Mr. Chapman's wife, the former Hazel Atkins, was one of the switchboard operators. Mr. Chapman



1896: First Telephone Dial
Flanges were used before finger holes were introduced.

(Courtesy: Automatic Electric)

always claimed that her strategic position at the switchboard enabled her to sabotage his calls to other girls and left him with no choice but to marry her.

The number of phones on the system increased to approximately 1,000 by the early 1920's and did not vary much from this figure until 1960. Since then the number of phones has gradually increased to the present total of 1,500.

When the Bell Telephone Company converted its exchanges at Watford and Alvinston to dial, the Brooke system modernized its outside plant and installed dial sets on lines which were switched at these exchanges. It was able to do this out of revenue and cash reserves built up in previous years.

When it came to converting its own exchange at Inwood, the system was faced with a more expensive proposition. Studies made with the help of the Ontario Telephone Service Commission indicated that a capital expenditure of \$200,000 would be necessary but that estimated revenues would be sufficient to carry this amount.

It was originally intended that the modernization of the Inwood exchange would proceed slowly over a number of years so that most of the cost could be met out of system revenues. However, subscribers at the Inwood exchange did not feel that they should be made to wait so much longer than their fellow subscribers at Watford and Alvinston. At a stormy meeting in July 1965, the majority of subscribers voted to borrow the necessary money and proceed at once with a crash plan to convert the Inwood exchange to dial.

It was estimated that the work would take two years to complete. It actually took more than three years before a new exchange and office building was erected and dial equipment installed. The cutover to dial was completed on February 4, 1969.

Roy Chapman had retired in 1966 and was replaced as manager by his brother, Wilfred, who also managed the Dawn Municipal Telephone System until it was sold in 1969. Wilfred is still manager of the system and the secretary-treasurer is Mrs. Jennie Philips. The commissioners are Burton Johnston, long time chairman, Mrs. Florence McNeil and Lorne Edgar.

The Bruce Municipal Telephone System is the largest municipal telephone system in Ontario. Municipal systems, as noted earlier, differ from public utilities because of the fact that they are owned by their "subscribers", those customers who pledge their land as security for the debts of the system. If a municipal system is sold, the proceeds of the sale are divided among the subscribers and are not paid into the treasury of the municipality as they would be in the case of a municipal public utility.

The Bruce system operates almost 7,500 phones but has only some 700 subscribers. The fact that such a small proportion of the Bruce system's customers are subscribers means that those who have built up a substantial equity in the system.

The history of the Bruce Municipal Telephone System began with a meeting of ratepayers at the Township Hall in Underwood on February 19, 1910. The Bell Telephone Company was providing service in the nearby towns of Kincardine, Paisley and Port Elgin; but would not extend its lines into the rural area of Bruce Township. The meeting was called to discuss the possibility of establishing a local system. The response was enthusiastic. Several more meetings were held during the year to discuss ways and means of proceeding and to hear advice from Bell officials and suppliers' representatives.

Township of Bruce By-Law No. 121 was passed on March 11, 1911, for the establishment and maintenance of a municipal telephone system and the construction of lines was started during the summer. The first exchange was opened in Underwood in December of 1911 in the home of George H. Hood. Another exchange at Tiverton followed early in 1912, with W. H. Glanville as local manager.

During 1912 the commissioners met with officials of the Bell Telephone Company to arrange for connection with neighbouring exchanges operated by Bell. They could not agree on terms and decided to open their own exchanges in Kincardine,

Paisley and Port Elgin. This was done later in the year and the three managers appointed were D. R. McPhail, Robert Fullerton and R. C. Crawford respectively. In 1913, Mr. H. Somers was hired as inspector and repairman at a salary of \$100 per month plus expenses for supper, bed, breakfast and horsefeed when it was necessary for him to remain away overnight on the system's business.

An \$80,000 debenture issue was sold by the Township of Bruce in 1913 to finance the building of the system. Other issues totalling \$161,000 were sold in later years to finance additions and extensions. The original debentures were all retired by 1938, and the system was able to finance without further borrowing until the 1960's when a dial conversion program was started and a new debenture totalling \$1,600,000 was issued.

In 1916, Norman Jones was hired as superintendent and the system purchased a car for his use for \$545. Mr. Jones was later appointed manager and secretary of the system and had served the system for almost 50 years when he retired in 1964.

From 1912, the Bruce Municipal Telephone System served in parts of the Towns of Kincardine, Paisley and Port Elgin and in most of the rural area surrounding them. There was no connection between the Bruce exchanges and the Bell exchanges in these towns. This was a most unsatisfactory arrangement.

Customers of one system could not call customers of the other and most business concerns needed two phones to communicate with their customers. This situation continued until 1923, when a series of meetings was held between officials of the two companies. The Bell Telephone Company finally agreed to sell its interests in the three towns to the Bruce system for \$22,600. The sale made it possible to close the three extra exchanges and resulted in greatly improved service to all of the system's 1,400 customers.

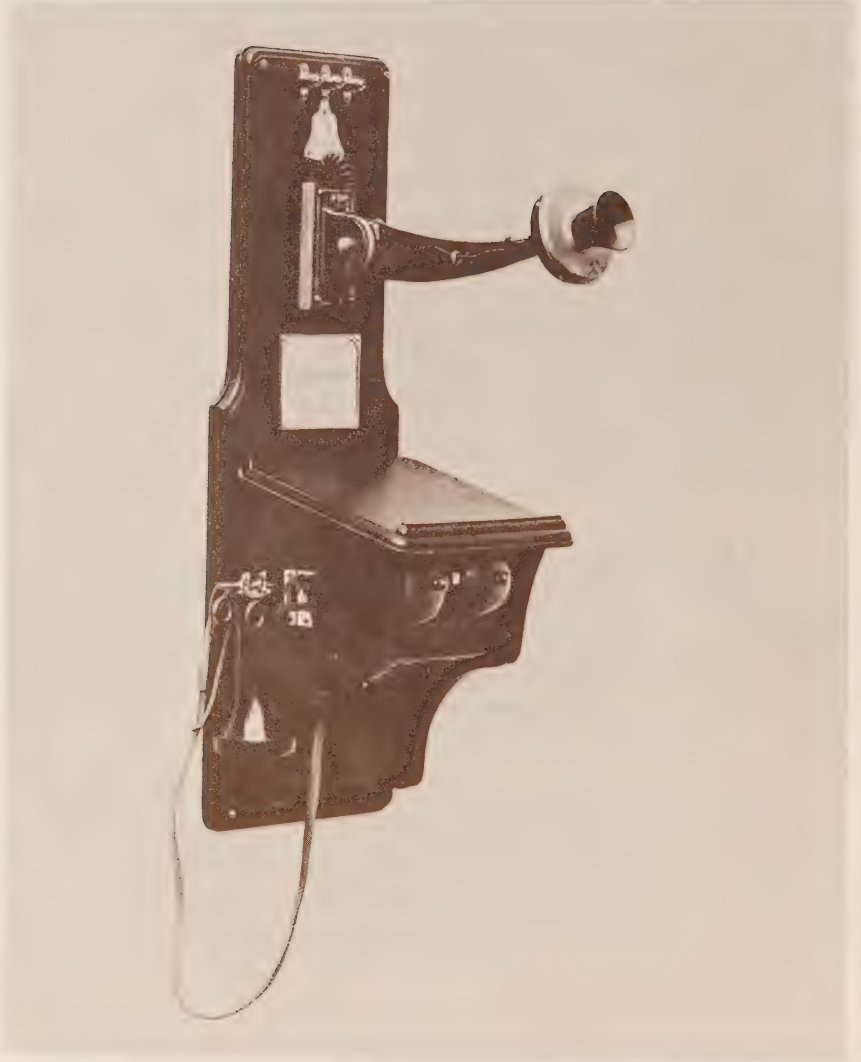
The Bruce system, along with other telephone companies, survived the problems of the depression and the war period and by 1950 was operating more than 2,300 phones. Its greatest expansion occurred after 1960 when the Bruce Nuclear Power Station was built at Douglas Point, a few miles from Tiverton. An arrangement was made with the Bell Telephone Company whereby Bell provided telephone service within the plant property, where a great deal of sophisticated equipment was required, while the Bruce system provided all necessary facilities outside the gates. Hundreds of construction workers and Ontario Hydro employees moved into the area and all the nearby towns and villages experienced a housing boom. The telephone system was hard pressed to meet the demand for service from the new residents and also for a more modern type of service than that being provided by the system's manual exchanges.

The commissioners developed a plan for conversion of the system to dial operation and obtained approval of the subscribers at the annual meeting in 1964. Mr. Jones retired that year and George E. Naldrett, a former owner of the Thamesville Telephone Co. Ltd., was engaged as manager of the system. Mrs. Mary MacLeod became secretary.

New common battery switchboards were installed in Port Elgin, Paisley and the combined Tiverton-Underwood exchange as a preliminary step to dial conversion at those exchanges and extensive reconstruction was commenced in the Kincardine area.

The Kincardine exchange was converted to dial on May 7, 1967, the Port Elgin exchange on December 15, 1968, and the Tiverton exchange in November 1969.

By 1975 the Bruce Municipal Telephone System was operating approximately 7,500 phones, more than three times as many as it had in the early 1950's. With proposed further expansion of the facilities at Douglas Point and growing activity in the whole area, it appears likely that the system will continue to grow every year.



1900: Common Battery Wall Phone

(Courtesy: Bell Canada)

There is a rather unusual feature of the operation of the Bruce Municipal Telephone System. Only a small proportion of its customers are located in the Township of Bruce and the system's head office and main exchanges are located outside the township. Nevertheless, Bruce Township is the initiating municipality, and is responsible for all financing required by the telephone system. However, revenues of the system have always been adequate to meet expenses and retire outstanding debentures and there is no reason to think that this will not continue in the foreseeable future. There is no doubt that Bruce Township and the Bruce Municipal Telephone System will meet the challenges of the future as they have those of the past.

The Cambray Telephone Co. Ltd. operates 530 phones from a manual common battery exchange in the Village of Cambray in Victoria County. The neighbouring Oakwood Telephone Co. Ltd. and the Cambray company are the only systems in Ontario which, by 1975, had not yet converted their equipment to dial operation nor had plans to do so.

The history of the company goes back to 1908, when three small companies started to erect telephone lines in the Cambray area. They were the Eden Telephone Company, the Islay Telephone Company and the Shamrock Telephone Company. The Bell Telephone Company was prepared to install a switchboard in Cambray, but the three companies decided to get together as the Cambray Telephone Union and install a switchboard of their own. Each of the companies owned and maintained its own lines but they jointly owned and operated the exchange.

In the next few years, three more companies built lines in the area and joined the Union for switching service. They were the Hartley Telephone Company, the Palestine Telephone Company and the Balsam Lake Telephone Company.

In 1918 the Cambray Telephone Co. Ltd. was incorporated to take over the Cambray Telephone Union. The individual systems still operated as separate units until 1927 when they were all absorbed by the Cambray Telephone Co. Ltd. The original shareholders of the six small systems were required to buy varying amounts of stock, depending on the cost of providing them with service. Following the reorganization in 1927, all shareholders received a block of five shares with a par value of \$5 each.

The Cambray system worked closely with the other independent companies in the area throughout the years. A loose association was formed which included the Cambray Telephone Co. Ltd., the Little Britain Telephone Co. Ltd., the Manilla Union Telephone Co. Ltd., the Oakwood Telephone Co. Ltd. and the Cameron Telephone Co. Ltd. Representatives of the five companies met at least once a year to discuss the interchange of traffic

between their exchanges, the building of inter-exchange circuits and rates to be charged for calls between the systems.

The Ontario Telephone Authority considered that a merger of these five systems would prove to be of advantage to all of them and held many joint meetings in an effort to persuade them to amalgamate. The companies all agreed to the idea of a merger in principle but could never come to a final decision on terms. Eventually the Little Britain and Cameron systems were sold to Bell and the Manilla Union system to Community Telephone Co. Ltd. This spoiled the opportunity for establishing a strong, viable independent company in the Lindsay area.

When Bell Canada bought the Cameron system in 1969, it was expected that the Cambray Telephone Co. Ltd. would probably sell also, in which case one new dial exchange could have been installed to serve the combined Cameron-Cambray area. However, the Cambray company did not choose to sell at that time and a smaller dial office was installed in Cameron.

The directors of the Cambray Telephone Co. Ltd. now find that they are faced with greatly increased demands for new service, particularly in the Balsam Lake area, which is remote from the exchange and, as a result, expensive to serve. The system's equipment is out-of-date but the capital expenditure to convert to dial would be more than the company could afford.

It was decided in 1974 that the only solution to the problem would be to sell out to a larger organization which could afford to modernize and extend the system. A call for tenders was issued, but no bids were received.

The company continues in business, doing the best it can with the means at its disposal.

Until its name was changed in 1966, the Capital Telephone Co. Ltd. was known as the Monk Rural Telephone Co. Ltd. It served a large rural area, west of Ottawa, along the south shore of the Ottawa River.

The Monk Rural Telephone Co. Ltd. was incorporated in 1909 following a meeting of interested citizens who decided that the time had come when the Village of Carp and the surrounding district should enjoy the advantages of a local telephone system. The company was capitalized at \$30,000, divided into 400 shares of \$75 each and prospective subscribers were required to buy one share.

The original officers were: Robert Richardson, president; J. W. McElroy, vice-president; Dr. G. H. Groves, secretary-treasurer and directors, R. Elliott, J. M. Argue, R. W. Richardson, Horace Downey and W. D. Monk. The last three gentlemen were among the guests of honour when the company celebrated its 50th anniversary.

Mr. Monk's father, G. W. Monk, who was the Member of the Legislature for Carleton, had built a line the previous year on which there were 19 phones, and this formed the nucleus of the new system and accounted for its name. The work of building more lines was started immediately.

A line foreman, John McCaugham, was hired at "\$3.00 a day and to board himself". His horse was hired at \$1.25 per day and any extra labourers needed were to be taken on at "\$1.50 a day without board". The first switchboard was installed in the home of E. J. Hughes in Carp and he was paid \$175 per year for rental of the room in which it was located.

The little company grew quickly at first. Within two years it was operating more than 300 phones and in 1913 reported a total of 420 customers. From then on, expansion was slower and a total of 800 phones was not reached until the company had been in business for 50 years.

Long term employees included Mrs. Fred Guy ("Mary Lizzie") who was chief operator for many years and Dr. A. E. Cavanagh who served as secretary-treasurer from 1929 to 1956 and kept the company books in his dental office.

During the 1950's and early 1960's, the company experienced another period of heavy demand for new telephone services because a great number of Ottawa people were moving into its franchised area. The directors decided that future expansion and capital requirements were beyond the company's means and a controlling interest in the capital stock was sold to the Bell Telephone Company in 1962. Bell continued to operate the company under the same name and with local representatives on the board of directors. Bert Bruce, a Bell employee, was appointed manager of the company.

In 1964, a new dial exchange was installed at Constance Bay to provide better service in that area where the demand for phones had increased tremendously. The same year, the Carp exchange was converted to dial, and an area to the south of Carp containing 140 phones was sold to the Bell Telephone Company to be served from Bell's Stittsville exchange.

By 1966 the system had almost 1,300 customers and the name was changed to Capital Telephone Co. Ltd.

In 1969, the Maberly Telephone Co. Ltd. made arrangements to sell its system to Bell Canada for takeover when Bell had rebuilt the system and converted it to dial. The Maberly company operated 125 phones from a small manual exchange in the Village of Maberly on Number 7 Highway, west of Perth. It was founded in 1911 as the Fall River Telephone Company and had been incorporated and the name changed in 1918. The Maberly Telephone Co. Ltd. also included the Conboy Telephone System (earlier the Cannon Telephone Company) which it had taken over in 1959.

In any case, before Bell had taken over the Maberly system, it was decided that it would be preferable for Bell's

subsidiary, the Capital Telephone Co. Ltd., to be the owner and arrangements were made accordingly. Capital took over the Maberly system on December 31, 1971.

Also in 1971 the articles of incorporation of the Capital Telephone Co. Ltd. were broadened to permit it to engage in other aspects of the communications business as well as the provision of telephone service. It then issued \$5 million worth of its treasury stock to purchase control of Teledirect Ltd., another Bell subsidiary which had been set up to take over all phases of printing and publishing of telephone directories.

Early in 1971, Capital made application for approval of higher rates at Carp and Constance Bay and a great many subscribers protested. The Ontario Telephone Service Commission held a local hearing in April 1971. It was obvious from representations made at the hearing that subscribers were not objecting to the proposed rates as much as they were to their limited calling area. They wanted toll-free calling to Ottawa and were quite prepared to pay for it.

At this time Bell Canada had cut back its Extended Area Service program, but the information elicited at the hearing persuaded the two companies to make arrangements for the provision of this service by the end of 1973. This date was later advanced to May 1973.

The demand for service at the Carp and Constance Bay exchanges continued to increase as the area became more and more a suburb of Ottawa, and it became obvious that this part of the telephone system was a part of the Ottawa complex. It was decided that operation and administration of the two exchanges, which were then serving more than 2,200 phones, could be more efficiently handled if they were absorbed by Bell Canada and managed directly by Bell's regional office. Their sale to Bell was approved in January of 1972 for take-over on May 31st of that year.

In 1975, Capital Telephone Co. Ltd. remains an operating telephone company by virtue of its ownership of the little exchange at Maberly, but it is also parent company to its multi-million dollar subsidiary, Teledirect Ltd., the directory service of Bell Canada. Capital is also engaged in selling computer service through another subsidiary.



1905: Desk Phone

(Courtesy: Automatic Electric)

The Coldwater Municipal Telephone System is the smallest "municipal" system in the province. It serves approximately 750 customers in the Village of Coldwater and the Township of Matchedash from its own dial exchange.

The Village of Coldwater is one of the oldest settled communities in Ontario. It is said to have been founded by Samuel D. Champlain in 1713, when he portaged from Lake Couchiching to Georgian Bay. Coldwater was also one of the first communities to enjoy telephone service.

In 1889, the Bell Telephone Company signed up 14 customers in the village and installed a small switchboard in Jacob Arnold's hardware store. Three years later, C. G. Millard, the local druggist, was appointed Bell agent, and the switchboard was moved to his store where it remained until 1916, when the Coldwater Municipal Telephone System was established. The new municipal system bought out Bell's plant in the village, which by then served over 90 phones, and installed the exchange in its own building.

In the meantime, around 1912, Mr. Millard, in addition to his duties as local Bell manager, started a system of his own called the Matchedash Telephone System to serve a section of rural area in Matchedash Township where there was a considerable demand for service. He soon had 40 phones on his lines, which were switched at the Coldwater exchange. When the Coldwater Municipal Telephone System was formed in 1916, to take over the Bell phones and equipment in the village, the people on Mr. Millard's lines in the rural area decided that they too would be better off, and perhaps enjoy lower rates with a municipal system. They established the North River Municipal Telephone System which bought Mr. Millard's Matchedash system.

In 1918, Mr. Millard's son, Mord, while still in high school, began to take a great interest in the telephone system. He spent his spare time after school and on weekends working along with the lineman. He retained this interest from then on, serving the system in many capacities from chairman

of the commissioners to plant superintendent. In 1974, Mord retired and sold the drug business he had taken over from his father, but continues to be actively associated with the telephone system.

By 1937, the Coldwater system had replaced all its outside plant in the village with cable and installed a new common battery switchboard in its exchange. By 1957, it had increased its number of phones from a depression low of 135 to 270, and the Bell Telephone Company made an offer to buy the system. The commissioners considered the price too low and decided that the system should stay in business and make its own long term plans to convert to dial operation.

Some of the long term planning concerned the North River Municipal Telephone System which now owned approximately 80 phones, which were switched by the Coldwater exchange. If the Coldwater system converted to dial, the North River system would either have to bring its outside plant up to dial standards and install dial phones in its customers' premises or go out of business. It was decided to sell to the Coldwater system for a cash settlement which was divided among its "subscribers" and they became "renters" on the Coldwater system. The entire North River plant was then rebuilt in readiness for dial service.

The cutover to dial was made in 1962. The existing Coldwater exchange building was enlarged to accommodate the automatic equipment and the whole job was financed by a debenture issue of \$55,000. It is interesting to note that in 1975, a small extension to the equipment cost the system over \$40,000 so the management can take some credit for its foresight in completing the main conversion before all the recent increases in equipment prices and interest rates. It is doubtful if a system of this size could finance a dial conversion job under 1975 conditions, but since the job was done with a comparatively low capital expenditure, the carrying charges were also low and the system should be able to continue in business and provide good service at reasonable rates.

The Community Telephone Company of Ontario Ltd. is the third largest independent system in the province and the largest in Southern Ontario. In 1975, it was operating over 26,000 phones from 20 exchanges. The company's head office is in Dunnville, the location of its largest exchange. Its other exchanges are scattered throughout the southern part of the province from east of Kingston to west of London.

In 1954, two young men who were the chief stockholders in several telephone companies in Pennsylvania decided that they would like to expand their interests in the telephone business by acquiring a group of independent systems in Ontario. Their names were Harold G. Payne and Hale S. Coughlin, Jr. They met with the members of the Ontario Telephone Authority several times during the year to discuss the matter.

Their first acquisition was a controlling interest in the Dunnville Consolidated Telephone Co. Ltd. which operated two large manual exchanges at Dunnville and Caledonia in the Niagara Peninsula. A holding company named the Community Telephone Company Ltd. was incorporated and it assumed control of Dunnville Consolidated in early 1955. The new owners immediately embarked on an expensive program of modernization and dial conversion with the capital investment financed by the issue of debentures in the United States. Within a short time, Messrs. Payne and Coughlin decided to consolidate their individual interests and Mr. Payne withdrew from the Ontario company.

By 1958, Mr. Coughlin had substantially completed the modernization of the Dunnville system and was ready to expand his operations in Canada. He purchased a controlling interest in various companies in Ontario and Quebec. He usually did this by issuing stock in the holding company, or in Dunnville Consolidated, or by establishing a new company for the purpose. The new company would be organized as a subsidiary of Community Telephone Co. Ltd., which was a holding company only and not an operating telephone company.

During the next ten years, until he sold all his Canadian interests in 1968, Mr. Coughlin acquired control of 15 independent telephone companies in Ontario. Following is a summary of the operation:

- 1958 - Erin Community Telephone Co. Ltd. was established to take over Erin Municipal Telephone System (exchanges at Erin and later, Hillsburgh);
- 1959 - Falkirk Community Telephone Co. Ltd. was established to take over Falkirk Telephone System with exchange at Kerwood and service station phones on Ailsa Craig and Strathroy;
- 1960 - Falkirk Community sold 145 service station phones on Ailsa Craig to the Bell Telephone Company;
 - Falkirk Community purchased the West Williams Telephone Association Ltd. (exchange at Springbank);
 - Eastern Community Telephone Co. Ltd. was established to take over
 - 1) Redden Telephone System (exchange at Tamworth);
 - 2) Adolphustown Rural Telephone System (exchange at Dorland)
 - 3) Newburgh Rural Telephone System (exchange at Newburgh);
- 1961 - Community Telephone Co. Ltd. purchased a controlling interest in the Yarker Rural Telephone Co. Ltd. (exchange at Yarker);
 - Erin Community purchased the assets of Falkirk Community (company charter still live). Springbank exchange replaced by one at Nairn;
- 1962 - Community purchased controlling interest in Eastern Community;
- 1963 - Community purchased controlling interest in the New Union Telephone Co. Ltd. (exchanges at Drayton and later Moorefield);
 - Orono Telephone Co. Ltd. (exchange at Orono) merged with Erin Community Telephone Co. Ltd. to form the Central Community Telephone Co. Ltd. (exchanges at Orono, Erin and Hillsburgh) (Orono and Erin companies wound up);
 - Eastern Community purchased Yarker Rural Telephone Co. Ltd. (exchange at Yarker) and latter company wound up;

- 1964 - Community sold its interest in New Union to Dunnville and New Union was wound up;
- Dunnville purchased assets of Eastern Community (exchanges at Tamworth, Newburgh, Dorland, Selby and Yarker) (Eastern Community charter still live);
 - Dunnville purchased the Sunderland Telephone Co. Ltd. (exchange at Sunderland) - charter cancelled;
 - Dunnville purchased the Desmond Rural Telephone Co. Ltd. (12 service station phones on Moscow) - charter cancelled;
- 1965 - Community purchased a controlling interest in:
- 1) Ernestown Rural Telephone Co. Ltd. (exchanges at Bath and Odessa,
 - 2) Leeds & Frontenac Rural Telephone Co. Ltd. (exchanges at Inverary and Seeley's Bay),
 - 3) Manilla Union Rural Telephone Co. Ltd. (exchange at Manilla),
 - 4) South Crosby Rural Telephone Co. Ltd. (exchange at Elgin), but these continued under their own names;

By 1967, Mr. Coughlin, in addition to his Ontario telephone interests, had acquired an interest in Continental Telephone Corporation and was a senior official of that company. Continental is one of the largest independent telephone systems in the United States, operating several million phones in that country and the West Indies, as well as its own manufacturing subsidiaries.

During 1967, Mr. Coughlin arranged a sale of the assets of his holding company (Community Telephone Co. Ltd.) to Continental Telephone Holding Co. Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Continental Telephone Corporation. The Ontario Telephone Service Commission conducted two public hearings on the matter and finally approved the sale in January 1968. The affairs of Coughlin's holding company were then wound up and the assets, consisting chiefly of shares in the Continental Telephone Corporation, were distributed among the shareholders.

The Community assets which Continental acquired consisted of a controlling interest in the following companies:



R. M. Brown
President
Community Telephone Company of Ontario Limited
(Courtesy: Canadian Telephone Journal)

Central Community Telephone Co. Ltd.
 Dunnville Consolidated Telephone Co. Ltd.
 Ernestown Rural Telephone Co. Ltd.
 Leeds & Frontenac Rural Telephone Co. Ltd.
 South Crosby Rural Telephone Co. Ltd.
 Manilla Union Telephone Co. Ltd.
 Eastern Community Telephone Co. Ltd. (non-operating)
 Falkirk Community Telephone Co. Ltd. (non-operating).

The new management then proceeded to amalgamate the various subsidiaries by taking the following steps in 1969:

- Dunnville purchased the physical assets of the Manilla Union Telephone Co. Ltd. since it was being operated from Sunderland exchange, leaving Manilla Union a non-operating company.
- Falkirk Community Telephone Co. Ltd. purchased from Continental Telephone Holding Co. Ltd. its controlling interest in the following:

Central Community Telephone Co. Ltd.
 South Crosby Rural
 Ernestown Rural
 Leeds & Frontenac Rural
 Manilla Union)
 Eastern Community) non-operating companies.

Falkirk Community and its six subsidiaries were then amalgamated to form Central Community Telephone Ltd., a new wholly owned subsidiary of Continental Holding Co. Ltd. and the affairs of the seven old companies were wound up.

This left Central Community Telephone Ltd. and Dunnville Consolidated Telephone Co. Ltd. as the two remaining Ontario subsidiaries of Continental. At this time, it was not possible to include Dunnville Consolidated in a merger because of debentures which the company had outstanding. By 1971, this difficulty had been cleared and another new company, Community Telephone Company of Ontario Ltd., was incorporated to take over the two remaining companies under one single organization.

While the company has made no further acquisitions of other independent systems since Continental purchased control in 1967, it has continued to expand through growth at its

existing exchanges. Total telephones increased almost 75 percent between 1967 and 1975. The increase in phones is a direct result of the excellent job the company has done in modernizing the systems it purchased. All of these systems were still operating manual exchanges when they were taken over and most of them were not able to take advantage of the increasing demand for telephone service in their areas. An example of the company's progressive policies was its installation of an electronic exchange at Bath in 1971. This was one of the first such installations in Canada and the first by an independent system in Ontario.

The Davis Telephone Co. Ltd. was one of the several independent systems in Ontario where three generations of the same family were actively engaged in the business. Joseph Davis founded the system, which he called the Rankin Telephone Company in 1910. His son, Leslie, took over from him in 1926. Leslie's son, Sheldon, assisted his father in managing the business from the time he was a teenager until the company was sold to Bell Canada in 1961. Mrs. Leslie Davis also devoted a great deal of time to the business. In the early years, she was chief switchboard operator and later company accountant and secretary-treasurer. She became an expert on the matter of toll settlements with Bell and for years served as a member of the Toll Compensation Committee of the Canadian Independent Telephone Association. During her high school days, daughter Dawnalda was frequently conscripted as relief switchboard operator when one of the regular girls failed to come to work. Both Leslie and Sheldon Davis also contributed their time to the Canadian Independent Telephone Association as members of the executive of that body. Leslie Davis was president in 1946-47.

In 1910, the Village of Rankin, located between Pembroke and Eganville in Renfrew County, boasted a sawmill, a general store, a cheese factory and a blacksmith shop, but no telephones. Joseph Davis, the proprietor of the sawmill, tried on several occasions to enlist the help of his neighbours in organizing a telephone company but met with little support. Finally, he and Sylvester Green, the storekeeper, decided to build a line of their own to Pembroke. This they did with the help of Mr. Davis' three sons and, by the time the line was finished, 10 customers had signed up for service.

Before long, the number of subscribers had increased to the point where additional circuits had to be built and a 10-line switchboard was installed in Mr. Davis' home. The switchboard was shipped in by freight in several boxes, but the man who was supposed to install it failed to arrive. Leslie Davis, one of Joseph's sons, became impatient waiting for him. Although he had never seen a telephone switchboard before, he

managed to get it assembled, installed and working by the time the expert finally appeared.

In 1912, Joseph Davis took Leslie into the firm as a partner; and in 1915, Sylvester Green withdrew from the partnership leaving the company wholly owned by the Davis family. The system continued to grow and by the early 1920's was operating more than 200 phones.

In 1923, Joseph Davis was surprised to receive a call from an official of the Bell Telephone Company in Montreal who told him that Bell had decided to sell the Eganville exchange and that the Rankin Telephone Company seemed to be the logical system to take it over. The little company had no spare capital but decided that this was too good an opportunity to miss. It accepted Bell's offer to sell the exchange with its 70 telephones for \$3,800. The decision was a good one because Eganville was a much larger town than Rankin, with a greater potential for development. In addition, ten small "service station" systems in the Eganville area were provided with switching by the Eganville exchange, which represented another source of revenue. When a similar offer was made in 1929 with respect to the Bell exchange at Douglas, with its 35 phones and four service station systems, it also was accepted at once.

In the meantime, Leslie Davis had married in 1926 and his father retired and sold Leslie his interest in the partnership. In 1942, the name of the company was changed to Davis Telephone System, since the name, Rankin Telephone Company, did not accurately indicate the scope of the system's operation which now stretched from Pembroke through Eganville to Renfrew.

Following the war, the company received several lucrative contracts in connection with the Pine Tree Defense Line which ran through its territory. Under young Sheldon's supervision, cable was erected in 1950 from Eganville to the large radar station at Paymount and new copper circuits were built between Eganville and Pembroke.

In 1954, the system started a modernization program with the installation of a small dial office at Rankin and continued with the conversion of its largest exchange at Eganville to common battery operation in 1956. During that same year, the company was incorporated as the Davis Telephone Company Limited with all shares being owned by the Davis family.

In 1960, a new dial exchange was installed at Douglas. Conversion of the exchange to dial marked the end of the career of Mrs. Adele McEachen, who had continuously operated the manual exchange installed there by the Bell Telephone Company 60 years before. People from miles around came to attend the retirement party given Mrs. McEachen by the Davis company. At the party she was presented with a mink stole and a cheque for \$1,000.

With the conversion of the three exchanges to dial or common battery operation, many of the small service station systems connected to the exchanges for switching service did not want to go to the expense of modifying their equipment to meet the required standards and were purchased by the Davis company. The following is a list of these systems and the year they were taken over:

- 1952 - Mink Lake Telephone Co. Ltd. (20 phones)
- 1955 - Brougham and Gratton Telephone Co. Ltd. (14 phones)
- 1956 - Cormac and Eganville Telephone Co. Ltd. (24 phones)
 - Lightning Telephone Co. Ltd. (11 phones)
 - Pine Valley Telephone Co. Ltd. (38 phones)
- 1957 - Upper Admaston Rural Telephone Co. Ltd. (17 phones)
- 1959 - Foster Bros Telephone Co. Ltd. (11 phones)
 - Gratton No. 7 Telephone Association Ltd. (21 phones)
 - Lower Bonnechere Telephone Co. Ltd. (16 phones)
 - Wilberforce Rural Telephone Co. Ltd. (27 phones)
- 1960 - Bromley Telephone Association Ltd. (44 phones)
 - Evergreen Telephone Co. Ltd. (8 phones)
 - Hyndford & Douglas Telephone Association Ltd. (14 phones)

The Davis system also purchased the Golden Lake exchange from the Madawaska Valley Telephone Co. Ltd. in 1956.

Madawaska had previously taken over this exchange with its purchase of the North Algona Telephone Co. Ltd., but it was closer to the centre of the Davis operation than to that of Madawaska and it seemed logical that it should be part of the Davis system.

By 1961, the company was well on its way to being completely modernized, but its largest exchange at Eganville was still manually operated, although its outside plant had been brought up to dial standards when the common battery exchange was installed in 1956. The system was, therefore, faced with another large capital expenditure when the time came to convert Eganville to dial. Leslie Davis had then been in the telephone business for 50 years and felt that he would like to retire. Sheldon liked the business but considered that it would be an opportune time to sell.

The Davis family approached the Bell Telephone Company and asked that company to make an offer for the system. At first, Bell officials tried to persuade them to stay in business because they were providing good service and making an adequate income. When it became apparent that they had made up their minds to sell, a satisfactory agreement was reached and Bell took over the system on August 31, 1961. Mr. and Mrs. Davis began to enjoy their well-earned retirement by doing some of the travelling they had always wanted to do, and Sheldon accepted a position with the Bell Telephone Company in Pembroke.

The Dawn Municipal Telephone System operated approximately 375 telephones from a manual exchange at the hamlet of Rutherford. It served a rural area to the east of Dresden in the Counties of Kent and Lambton.

The system was established in 1911. Early commissioners were W. J. Slatcher, J. J. Harrison, J. S. Campbell and James Skinner.

Within two years the system was serving 250 subscribers and by 1921 this number had increased to 375. The number of phones remained at approximately that figure during the existence of the system, with the exception of the depression years when many services were cancelled but later reinstated.

The original switchboard cost \$160 and remained in operation until 1951, when a more modern manual board was installed at a cost of \$2,400. The first board was located in a store at Rutherford. In 1917 it was moved to a house purchased by the system as an office and home for the operator.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Chapman moved to Rutherford in 1942 when Mr. Chapman became manager of the system, and Mrs. Chapman became chief operator and later secretary-treasurer. For the 27 years until the system was sold they looked after the night operating from 9:30 in the evening until 7:45 in the morning.

By the late 1960's, most of the adjacent exchanges had been converted to dial operation. The commissioners of the Dawn system realized that it was too small to modernize on its own and that it was time to get out of the business.

Purchase offers were made by the Bell Telephone Company and the neighbouring Thamesville Telephone Co. Ltd. The Bell offer was approved by a meeting of subscribers held in June of 1967. However, a large number of subscribers, who had favoured selling to the Thamesville system, claimed that



Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Chapman
Dawn Municipal Telephone System
The last call operated from the Rutherford exchange.

since proxies had not been accepted at the June meeting, it was illegal. A second meeting was called in August at which the agreement with Bell was repealed and the sale to the Thamesville company was approved.

A final compromise was reached when the Thamesville company agreed that, after taking over the Dawn system, it would sell an area near Dresden containing 50 customers to Bell so that these customers might be served from Bell's Dresden exchange.

The Thamesville Telephone Co. Ltd. proceeded with the modernization of the balance of the Dawn system and in December 1969 took over its operation. The exchange at Rutherford was closed and switching was provided from the Thamesville exchange. Mr. Chapman, who had been appointed manager of the nearby Brooke Municipal Telephone System on a part-time basis several years before, moved to Inwood and became full-time manager of the Brooke system.

Less than a year after its takeover of the Dawn system, the Thamesville Telephone Co. Ltd. sold to Bell Canada and the whole area became part of the Bell system.

Wallace Thurston was the lineman with the Dunsford Telephone, Light and Power Cooperative Association Ltd. from 1920 until it was taken over by Bell Canada in 1973. He has in his possession a handbook put out by one of the equipment suppliers in the early days of the telephone industry. The booklet was a good source of information for linemen because it gave instructions on how to build, maintain and repair telephone lines and equipment. The introductory page ends with the sentence:

"There is really no more trouble in building a telephone line than in building a good wire fence".

The founders of the Dunsford sytem may have had this statement in mind when they met on January 16, 1907, to discuss the possibility of bringing telephone service to their community, a few miles northeast of Lindsay in Victoria County. The meeting, which had been called by the Rev. M. E. Wilson, minister of the Methodist Church, decided to proceed at once with the building of a telephone system. Directors were elected and a name was chosen for the proposed company.

The original board of directors included Charles Hore, president; Isaac Lewis, secretary; and W. J. Thurston, Sam Thurston and J. D. Hunter.

Dunsford Telephone, Light and Power Cooperative Association was the name chosen by those who attended the organization meeting. It would appear that the original intention was to form a company to provide electric power as well as telephone service but this intention was not followed up. The building of telephone lines was started immediately however, franchise by-laws were obtained from the local townships, and an agreement for long distance connection was arranged with the Bell Telephone Company.

By the end of its first year in business, the little system was well established and ready to do battle with the

Bell Telephone Company. The directors were unhappy with the cooperation they were getting from Bell. In February of 1908 they passed a motion:

"That, owing to Bell's refusal to collect tolls for messages over our system at their end, we authorize central to charge 10 cents as messenger service for any messages from Lindsay through our exchange, and if they refuse to collect for such service, we should cut them off altogether."

The company soon extended its lines throughout the rural area around Dunsford and at one time served a number of customers on a service station basis from the Bell exchange in Bobcaygeon. When the Bobcaygeon Rural Telephone Co. Ltd. was established in 1915, it took over those Dunsford customers located northeast of the village. Those situated to the southwest of Bobcaygeon were taken over by the Bell Telephone Company in 1961 when the Bobcaygeon exchange was converted to dial.

The number of customers dropped from 150 to 75 during the depression but had gradually risen to more than 400 when Bell agreed to purchase the system. The directors of the company realized that they would soon have to modernize the service but did not feel that the company could handle the necessary financing. A sales agreement with Bell was signed in 1970 but the actual takeover of the system was delayed until November 1973, by which time the outside plant had been completely rebuilt and a new dial exchange had been installed.

When the time came to dissolve the company and distribute the assets among the shareholders, it was found that a charter incorporating a limited company had never been issued, although it had been operated as such throughout the years. With the word "cooperative" in the name, there was some doubt as to whether the company should be classified as a cooperative corporation or as a limited company. It was finally determined that it was a limited company and on September 18, 1975, the name was legally changed accordingly. Distribution of the assets was then proceeded with on that basis.

Durham Telephones Ltd. has had an interesting and rather complicated history because its predecessor company, Docon Telephones Ltd., operated in two widely separated areas of Ontario.

The company is owned by two Toronto men, H. A. Coons, Q.C. and E. T. Downs, retired telephone sales manager of the Northern Electric Co. Ltd., a man who helped organize a number of independent telephone systems in the province.

In the mid 1920's, a Mr. J. R. Bell approached Mr. Downs about a job. Mr. Bell had had some telephone experience in the Millbrook area when he had attempted to organize a "Kawartha Telephone System" which was taken over almost immediately by the Millbrook Rural Telephone Co. Ltd. He had also been an employee of the South Crosby Rural Telephone Co. Ltd. at Elgin, Ontario.

Mr. Downs had been aware, for several years, that there was a good potential for establishing a telephone system in the Capreol area near Sudbury. He suggested that J. R. Bell organize a system there. Mr. Downs volunteered to arrange a line of credit with the Northern Electric Co. for the necessary supplies and equipment.

J. R. Bell incorporated the Capreol Telephone Co. Ltd., obtained a franchise for the area and started to build a system, but soon was unable to meet his obligations to Northern Electric. The credit manager eventually had words with Mr. Downs who, in his enthusiasm as a salesman, had personally recommended Mr. Bell as a credit risk when the account had been opened.

Not knowing quite what to do about the situation, Mr. Downs went to see J. R. Bell's lawyer, H. A. Coon, who confirmed the fact that Mr. Bell was in a poor financial position. However, the establishment of a telephone system in the Capreol area still seemed to be a sound idea. Mr. Coon

suggested that he and Ed Downs form a little syndicate to take over J. R. Bell's interest in the Capreol Telephone Co. Ltd. This was done, the company's financial difficulties were eventually solved and by 1946, the system was serving over 300 customers from two exchanges at Capreol and Hanmer.

Meanwhile back in Southern Ontario, Mr. Downs heard that Dr. H. A. Turner's "Millbrook Telephone Co. Ltd." was for sale. Until 1912, the Bell Telephone Company had owned a small "metallic" switchboard in the Village of Millbrook. Bell had sold out to the local doctor, who operated as Turner's Telephone System until 1916 when he incorporated the Millbrook Telephone Co. Ltd.

A charter was obtained for Docon Telephones Ltd. (the name being made up from "Downs" and "Coon") and in 1942, Docon bought Dr. Turner's interest in the Millbrook system with its exchange at Millbrook and some 250 customers.

In 1947, it was decided that the two companies should be merged and Docon Telephones Ltd. absorbed the Capreol Telephone Co. Ltd. For almost ten years, the company operated its two northern exchanges near Sudbury and the Millbrook exchange in Durham County. Then, in 1956, with an ever increasing demand for modern dial service and the high capital investment which this required, it was decided to concentrate the activities of the company in Southern Ontario. The Capreol and Hanmer exchanges were sold to the Bell Telephone Company.

In 1957, the assets of the Cavan Rural Telephone Co. Ltd. (with 90 phones which were being switched at the Millbrook exchange) were purchased by Docon for \$2,250. The Cavan Rural had previously absorbed the North Cavan Telephone Co. Ltd. with its 14 phones in 1949.

Over the years, Docon Telephones Ltd. had built up a prospering sideline of buying and selling new and used telephone equipment and materials to other independent systems. In order to differentiate between the two phases of the business

and because the telephone service end of the business was now all located in Durham County, it was decided to incorporate a new company, Durham Telephones Limited, which took over the telephone system. "Docon" was left with the equipment and material sales.

By 1960, Durham Telephones Ltd. had installed a new dial office at Cavan to serve the north section of the territory. This was shortly followed by the conversion of the Millbrook exchange to dial operation. The Fallis Line Telephone Co. Ltd., whose 16 phones were switched by the Millbrook exchange, was taken over by Durham in 1963.

However, although modern dial service was now provided throughout the whole area served by the company, a number of subscribers were not satisfied with the situation whereby a toll charge still applied to calls they made to Peterborough which was their main business centre. Neighbouring Bell exchanges had toll-free calling or "Extended Area Service", as it is called, with Peterborough, and Durham subscribers felt that they should enjoy the same privilege. A large group of customers submitted a petition to the Ontario Telephone Service Commission and a public hearing was held in the Cavan Township Hall at Millbrook in September 1967. Company spokesmen maintained that the capital cost of providing the requested toll-free service could only be carried if a substantial rate increase was allowed while the petitioners and local officials, who spoke on their behalf, demanded that the service be supplied at rates no higher than those paid for equivalent service by their neighbours in Bell exchanges.

An order was soon issued by the Commission requiring that Extended Area Service to Peterborough be provided and allowing the company, upon provision of the service, to increase its rates to the equal of those charged in Peterborough.

A few years later, the company voluntarily installed equipment to provide toll-free calling to a neighbouring Bell exchange at the Village of Bailieboro. Its owners were justifiably proud of the fact that this small independent company

now provided telephone service of scope and quality equal to any in the country.



1910: "Daffodil" Desk Set

(Courtesy: Bell Canada)

When the Ontario Telephone Authority was established in 1954, its members had brave plans to persuade groups of independent telephone systems serving in the same general area to amalgamate into larger units capable of improving and modernizing service. Although it held meetings with many groups of systems and although in most cases the system representatives agreed with the idea in principle, the Authority met with little success in its campaign. It was almost impossible to get neighbouring systems to agree on the necessary financial details of getting together.

The Dysart Municipal Telephone System at Haliburton carried out one of the few successful mergers sponsored by the Authority. It absorbed the neighbouring Stanhope Municipal Telephone System and Minden Municipal Telephone System in 1956. All three systems had been organized in their respective municipalities in 1921, and at the time of the merger were serving a total of approximately 1,100 customers. The mechanics of the amalgamation were fairly simple since the three systems were all "municipal" telephone systems owned by their "subscribers". The subscribers of the Minden and Stanhope systems simply became subscribers of the expanded Dysart system on an equal basis with its subscribers.

The original Dysart system had a rather stormy beginning. Following the first subscribers' meeting on September 12, 1921, the newly elected commissioners had to decide which telephone manufacturing company should be chosen to supply the necessary equipment to build the system. One supplier had spent a considerable amount of time and money in designing a system and confidently expected to be awarded the contract; but the representative of another company persuaded some of the commissioners that he could supply equivalent equipment for less money. He could well afford to do this since his company had incurred no planning expense. In any case, the commissioners disagreed on which supplier should get the contract. Some of them resigned, making another subscribers' meeting necessary to settle the matter. It must have been a hectic

meeting, judging by the record in the minute book, which is hastily scrawled in pencil, while all the other pages are meticulously written in pen and ink.

The system was no sooner in operation than it began to expand. A trunk line was built to Minden, and a long distance outlet to Kinmount. In 1924, additional debentures were issued to finance the building of a 50 mile copper wire circuit from Haliburton to meet the Bell long distance network at Fenelon Falls. In 1927, lines were extended to serve the West Guilford area, which had formerly been inadequately served from the Stanhope system's exchange at Maple Lake.

Further expansion came to a dead halt during the depression but by 1941 conditions had improved sufficiently to warrant the construction of a new building in Haliburton to house the exchange and business office. In 1947, additional circuits were added to the toll lead to Fenelon Falls, and in 1950 service was extended to the Wilberforce area.

Following the merger with the Stanhope and Minden systems in 1956, the office and exchange building erected in 1941 became too small for its purpose. The old post office building in Haliburton was taken over as a business office for the system. This released space in the former office to accommodate more switchboard facilities.

The system continued to grow and did its best to keep up with the increasing population in the area and the resulting demand for telephone service. A dial exchange was installed at West Guilford to bring faster service to that area. The Glamorgan Municipal Telephone System (formerly the Gooderham Telephone Association) was taken over. The Glamorgan system had 31 phones on one line connected on a service station basis to the Haliburton exchange. When Dysart took over, six additional lines were built into the area, which must have vastly improved the service. The total number of phones almost doubled in the 10 years following amalgamation of the three systems.

In 1967, the commissioners and subscribers finally decided that the system had served its purpose in bringing telephone service to an area where it was badly needed and enthusiastically supported by the residents. The time had come, however, when the whole system had to be rebuilt to modern dial standards, and it seemed sensible to turn the operation over to a larger organization which could more readily plan and finance such a program. It had been estimated that the capital cost of converting the entire system to dial operation would exceed \$2 million.

An agreement was reached with the Bell Telephone Company which purchased the assets of the system for \$650,000 and took over its operation on January 1, 1968. After payment of current debts and outstanding debentures, approximately \$600,000 remained to be distributed among the 700 subscribers of the system. Each received \$150 (the amount of his original contribution to the system) plus an additional amount calculated on the basis of the number of years, up to five, during which he had been a subscriber.

The Dysart Municipal Telephone System was fortunate in its choice of commissioners over the years. Among those who served during the early days were W. Austin, Wm. Roberts, Dr. E. Baker, Chas. Henderson, Harry Horsely, George Anderson, H. Sipe, George Chiff, Percy Bolender, Holly Robertson, Frank Peck, Frank Austin, Wm. Nichol, John Lucas, Bruce Gould, Robt. Nicholl, J. E. Hunter, R. R. Tyler and George Jones.

Chairman of the Dysart system for the eight years prior to its sale was Glen Hodgson, who also served as a member of the Ontario Telephone Service Commission until he was elected the M.P.P. for Victoria-Haliburton riding. Another man who contributed a great deal to the development of the system was G. H. Windsor, who served as secretary for 20 years.

Members of the commission at the time the system was sold were Vinton Loucks, chairman; Gary Agnew, Jack Robertson, Russell Bain and L. C. Morrison. Secretary-manager for the 10

years prior to its sale was Earle Casey, who directed the operations of the company during its period of greatest growth.

Haldimand Township in the County of Northumberland gave its name to two neighbouring independent telephone systems which operated in the area for many years. Each had approximately 300 customers when they were taken over by the Bell Telephone Company in 1964.

The Haldimand Rural Telephone Co. Ltd. seems to have had its beginning around 1906 when Bertram Hoskin moved out of his father's house to take over a farm of his own a short distance away. Father and son thought that it would be a good idea to build their own telephone line between the two farms. Before they had progressed very far with their plans, a number of their friends asked to be provided with service.

They decided to start a telephone company and letters patent were issued to them dated June 13, 1906. Authorized capital was 300 shares of \$10 each. The board of directors elected at the first shareholders' meeting included Thomas Hoskin, James Ross, John D. Craig, Charles Macklin and Thomas Speer.

The first switchboard was installed in the home of John L. Grosgean on Highway 2. As new subscribers were added, it seemed that the centre of the traffic load was moving gradually to the northwest. The exchange was, therefore, moved to the Stephen Burwash home in the Village of Baltimore and eventually to a building owned by the company.

The Haldimand Municipal Telephone System was organized in 1915 to take over the Vernonville Telephone System and a part of the Mount Pleasant Telephone Company. A. T. Wait, the proprietor of the Vernonville system, was paid \$1,175 for the 37 phones he owned, and Robert Dawson was paid \$1,525 for the portion of the Mount Pleasant system he sold to the new municipal system.

Other portions of the area served by the Mount Pleasant



1911-18: Rural Party-line Phone
(Courtesy: Automatic Electric)

company formed the nucleus of other municipal telephone systems formed at about the same time. Robert Dawson started the Mount Pleasant system around 1905 and added the W. W. Porte system with 50 phones in 1909. In 1912, Dawson sold the eastern portion of his system to the Murray-Brighton Telephone Company; and in 1915 he sold the balance of the system, which by then was operating almost 300 phones, to the various townships in which his plant was located. The Cramahe Municipal Telephone System at Castleton, the Percy Municipal Telephone System at Warkworth and the Haldimand Municipal Telephone System at Grafton all got started in this way.

Both the Haldimand Rural Telephone Co. Ltd. and the Haldimand Municipal Telephone System grew steadily and at approximately the same rate as the years went by. In 1921, each reported approximately 200 phones; and in 1959 the number of phones on each system had increased to more than 300.

In 1959 a group of shareholders of the Haldimand Rural Telephone Co. Ltd. circulated a petition which called for the sale of the system to the Bell Telephone Company. The board of directors entered into negotiations with Bell and obtained an offer of \$5,780 for the whole system, but the shareholders turned it down as being too low and decided that the system should remain in business. Scarcely a year had passed, however, when the directors requested Bell to make another appraisal. This time, the offer was for \$18,000 and it was accepted by the shareholders and approved by the Ontario Telephone Service Commission in September 1961.

The management of the Haldimand Municipal Telephone System had hoped that someday it might be possible to merge their system with the Haldimand Rural Telephone Co. Ltd. to form a larger unit capable of financing a dial conversion program. With arrangements completed for the sale of the Haldimand Rural system, however, the commissioners of the Haldimand Municipal realized that their system would soon be completely surrounded by Bell exchanges. The system had no place to expand, and was too small to modernize on its own. It was

decided that the only course open was to sell out also. A deal was made with Bell for sale of the system for \$17,000. This was approved by the subscribers on November 12, 1962.

Both systems continued to operate on their own until November 15, 1964, when Bell was ready to take them over. At that time the Baltimore exchange was done away with and most of the customers were transferred to Bell's Cobourg exchange. A few in the northwest were transferred to the Coldspring exchange and the rest to Grafton. The following year the Grafton exchange was also converted to dial.

The Hay Municipal Telephone System operates almost 3,000 phones from dial exchanges at Zurich, Grand Bend and Dashwood and serves a large rural area of Huron County.

A number of Swiss families emigrated to the area in the mid 18th century and named the village after Zurich, Switzerland. Descendents of two of these families, the Zeller family and the Hess family, have been closely associated with the telephone system since its inception. Edmund Zeller, publisher of the Zurich Herald, started the first rural system in 1906. His mechanic and linesman was William G. Hess.

The Hess family were watch and clock makers in Switzerland and brought their skills with them to Canada. The Exeter town clock, made completely of wood, and several other tower clocks in the area were built by the Hess family.

For many years following the establishment of the Hay Municipal Telephone System, it was operated, managed and maintained on a contract basis by members of the Hess family. This arrangement came to an end when Gordon Hess, grandson of William G. Hess, resigned in 1957 to take a sales position with the Northern Electric Company. Since then the system has been managed directly by the Hay Township Council, a salaried secretary-treasurer and a plant manager. Gordon Hess still lives in Zurich where he directs the operations of the district Northern Electric sales office. He was Mayor of the village in 1969 when the Chamber of Commerce of Zurich, Switzerland, invited him and his wife to make a formal visit to the sister city.

Telephone service in the area was first provided by the Bell Telephone Company which operated a small exchange and a few phones in Zurich between 1895 and 1909. Bell did not, however, provide service to rural customers, and in 1906 Edmund Zeller decided to start his own system. The first two telephones were installed in the bicycle shop operated by William G. Hess and the jewellery store owned by his brother,

Fred. When additional lines were added, an exchange was installed in the Zurich Herald printing office and some rural lines were connected to Bell's Dashwood exchange for switching. In 1909 Mr. Zeller bought the Bell exchange and phones in Zurich.

The demand for telephone service began to gain momentum. Several meetings were held to discuss the best method of meeting the demand. Some people advocated the formation of a public utility, while others favoured the idea of a limited company owned by its customers.

Mr. Zeller, who had been operating as the Farmers' Exchange Line, incorporated a company in 1910 called the South Huron Telephone Co. Ltd., and operated under that name for a year. In May 1911, another meeting was held in Zurich and the establishment of a municipal system to buy the South Huron Telephone Company was approved. The township council passed the appropriate by-laws and on July 11, 1911, the Hay Township Municipal Telephone System took over Mr. Zeller's system and the Bell exchange in Dashwood.

The system started in business with 138 phones and by 1913 was serving almost 400 subscribers. Some of the new customers had little knowledge of how a telephone worked.

One subscriber would not sign the petition for service until he was guaranteed that he could talk over the phone in German. After his phone was installed he complained that the service had been misrepresented. He had tried to speak to his son's English wife in German and she could not understand him any better than if he had been right in her home.

Another old gentleman, who was watching a telephone being installed, picked up a piece of wire and, after examining it, remarked "Can't see how anybody can talk through that wire, it isn't even hollow".

The system prospered and expanded throughout the

years and by 1949 was operating more than 1,100 phones. In that year, an exchange was installed at Grand Bend to improve service in the area and relieve overloading at the Dashwood exchange, where Grand Bend phones had formerly been switched.

When the system embarked on a dial conversion program in 1962, the Grand Bend exchange was the first to be cut over to dial. This was followed by the conversion of Dashwood in 1964 and Zurich in 1966.

The number of phones has continued to grow, particularly in the Grand Bend area, where many new homes have been built in the last decade. At the beginning of 1975, the system was operating 2,927 phones.

The secretary-treasurer is Wayne Horner and the plant manager is William Wagner.

The first phones in Huron Township were installed by the Bell Telephone Company around the turn of the century. By 1910 Bell was serving 28 customers along the shore of Lake Huron, south of the town of Kincardine.

Bell was not, however, anxious to provide phones in the farming area away from the lake and on March 7, 1911, residents of the area met in the township hall in the Village of Ripley to discuss the founding of a local telephone system. It was decided at the meeting that the most suitable type of organization for the purpose would be a municipal telephone system. A petition was then circulated and presented to the council of the Township of Huron which passed a by-law on April 11, 1911, providing for the establishment of the Huron and Kinloss Municipal Telephone System.

C. C. Huffman, a telephone engineer, was employed for one year to supervise construction, and the plant was built by W. G. Lytle and Company, a firm of contractors from Peterborough. Telephone poles were imported from Michigan. The first exchange was located in a building now known as the Town and Country Restaurant on one of Ripley's main streets. A. M. Treleaven was the first contract operator and he and his family operated the switchboard until 1924. The system got off to a very good start and at the end of two years, it was reporting almost 600 phones in service.

Mathew Gemmell started to work for the company in 1917 as a lineman and was subsequently appointed plant superintendent and then manager. He served the system for over 30 years until his death in 1949. His son, Francis, went to work for the system in 1926 and succeeded his father as manager. He resigned in 1955 to join the staff of the Ontario Telephone Authority as an engineering officer. His place was taken by Clayton Nicholson, the present manager.

Another father and son who contributed much to the success of the system were Angus and Ross Martyn. Angus Martyn

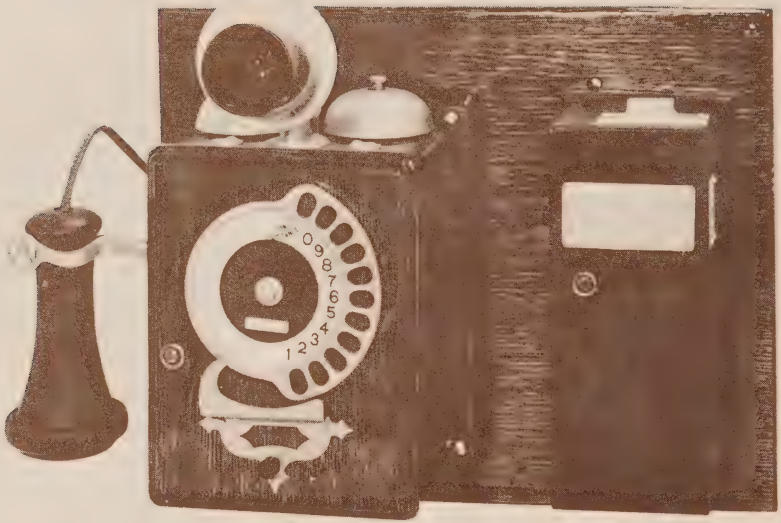
was the first secretary-treasurer and continued in that office until 1925. Ross Martyn served in the same capacity from 1925 until his retirement in 1957.

Stewart Needham, who was chairman of the commissioners for many years and still serves as a member of the board, can also look back on more than 30 years association with the Huron and Kinloss organization.

The system steadily expanded its operations and the number of customers increased year by year. Most of the growth can be attributed to increased demand for telephone service within the system's franchised area, but it also acquired an additional 600 phones when it paid \$17,000 for the assets of the neighbouring Goderich Rural Telephone Co. Ltd. in 1957. The Goderich company served an area northeast of Goderich from an exchange at the Village of Dungannon. Portions of two smaller companies were also absorbed by the Huron and Kinloss system. In 1944, it took over an area south of Kincardine containing approximately 20 phones from the Lake Shore Mutual Telephone Co. Ltd., and in 1952 it bought a line with 10 customers from the Lucknow and Kinloss Telephone Co. Ltd.

The first step in a plan for modernization of the system came in 1959 when a new dial exchange was installed at Bervie to improve service to subscribers in the northeast section of the Ripley exchange area. The next step was conversion to dial of the Dungannon exchange in 1963 and the system became completely automated when the Ripley exchange was converted in 1967. Dungannon subscribers were given toll-free calling privileges to Goderich and Ripley, and Ripley customers have the same service to Kincardine and Dungannon. The small exchange at Bervie was eliminated when Ripley was converted to dial and its customers are served from the new Ripley central office.

In 1975, the Huron and Kinloss Municipal System was operating almost 2,500 phones and providing its owner-subscribers and customers throughout its whole area with modern dial service.



Early Pay Telephone
(Courtesy: Automatic Electric)

The Ilderton Telephone Co. Ltd. was incorporated in 1960 to take over the operation of two neighbouring systems in the Ilderton - Poplar Hill area, northwest of London. The two systems were the London Township Municipal Telephone System and the Coldstream System. Their merger was one of the few successful amalgamations proposed by the Ontario Telephone Service Commission. The success of the new company was rather short-lived. It sold to the Bell Telephone Company 13 months after it started in business.

The history of the two component systems goes back to the early days of the century, when two doctors operated small systems in the area. A Dr. Robson owned what was called the London Township Telephone System, and a Dr. Graham owned the Lobo Township Telephone System. Around 1906 these systems were bought by the United Telephone Co. Ltd., which was owned by Alf Stoner, C. Johnson and a Mr. Boughner of Ilderton. In its first report to the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board in 1910, the company reported a total of 375 phones.

Around 1908, the United Telephone Co. Ltd. heard that the Great Western Railway was contemplating abandonment of its telegraph line from Coldstream to Komoka and asked Jacob Marsh to negotiate for the purchase of the line. Mr. Marsh owned a mill and the general store in Coldstream where the telegraph line terminated. He was successful in buying the line but the United Telephone Company decided that the price was too high and backed out of the deal. This left Mr. Marsh with a 10 mile pole lead and one wire circuit on his hands. In order to make use of it, he decided to build a telephone system of his own. By 1913, when the Marsh system was renamed the Quaker Telephone System, it was operating more than 200 phones. The name Joseph Marsh chose for his system may be attributed to the fact that he and his family were Quakers whose ancestors had moved to Canada from the States following the American Revolution.

The United and Quaker systems were great rivals

during the ensuing decade, each canvassing concession after concession for subscribers.

In 1921, Jacob Marsh, who was then 80 years of age, sold his system to Alex G. McKenzie of East Williams who renamed it the Coldstream Telephone System. The following year, both systems were hit by a disastrous sleet storm which levelled most of their lines. With the help and encouragement of his subscribers, Mr. McKenzie managed to rebuild his plant; but the storm spelled the end of the United Telephone Co. Ltd., whose owners decided they were not prepared to raise the capital necessary to repair their lines.

United's former subscribers held a meeting in early 1923 and decided to form a municipal telephone system. Provisional commissioners elected at the first meeting were T. H. Hedley, Chas. Ferguson and J. A. Hughes. Francis Dagger of the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board helped them with the organization of the system and supervised an appraisal of what was left of the United company's plant to determine what the new system should pay for it. The London Township Municipal Telephone System commenced operations during that year, and in two years was reporting a total of almost 450 phones.

Both systems continued to prosper during the 1920's but lost a considerable number of phones during the depression. In 1937, George McKenzie took over the Coldstream system from his father. In 1952, he moved the exchange from the Village of Coldstream to Poplar Hill in order that it would be more centrally located.

Following the war, the population in the area increased considerably, as London people moved to the country and commuted to their work in the city. This led to an increased demand for phones and also to a demand for toll-free calling to London. The London Township system eventually found itself serving a heavy concentration of subscribers in the vicinity of Hyde Park Corners, almost all of whom were London people who wanted London service. In 1958 the company acceded to their

demands and sold a section of its territory containing about 100 customers to the Bell Telephone Company, which then served the area directly from one of its London exchanges. The following year, the system sold Bell a number of service station phones which had been connected to Bell exchanges at Lucan and London.

It became obvious to the owner of the Coldstream system and to the management of the London Township Municipal System that if they were to continue to operate in an area so close to a large city, they must be able to offer modern dial service equivalent to that available in the city. They also realized that if they could get together and form one large system, it would have a better chance of planning and financing a modernization program than two separate systems.

Several meetings were held during 1959. Officials of the two systems discussed with the staff and members of the Ontario Telephone Service Commission the various methods whereby a merger might be achieved. It was decided to incorporate a new company to be known as the Ilderton Telephone Co. Ltd., which took over the operation of the two systems on January 1, 1961. Both of the old systems were appraised and subscribers of the London Township system received preferred and common stock in the new company to the value of their equity. George McKenzie, the owner of the Coldstream system, received shares equivalent to the appraised value of his system, thus giving him a controlling interest in the new company. He was also appointed general manager of the combined system.

The Ilderton Telephone Co. Ltd. immediately began to make plans to convert its exchanges to dial and to provide the southern portion of the system with toll-free service to London. The latter was considered necessary because no sooner had the demands of subscribers at Hyde Park Corners been satisfied by sale of the area to Bell, than a new series of petitions were received from customers north of the new boundary. With the help of the Ontario Telephone Service Commission, studies were made of the costs of settling these problems in

various ways. One possibility was to sell the southern portion of the Ilderton exchange area to Bell. It was felt, however, that this would only provide a temporary solution, since the suburbs of London were steadily growing to the north and sale of a further section might become necessary in a few years time.

Another possibility, and a more satisfactory one, would be to convert both exchanges to dial and provide toll-free calling between the whole Ilderton exchange area and Bell's London exchanges; but it was estimated that this would involve a capital expenditure of some \$400,000. Cost studies indicated that even if the company could raise this amount, its estimated revenues would not meet operating costs, plus carrying charges on the loan, for many years.

The directors approached the Bell Telephone Company to see if it would be interested in buying the system. Bell indicated a definite interest and offered \$200,000 for the physical assets. When news of this proposed deal became public, another offer was received whereby the purchaser would take a controlling interest in the company and furnish funds for modernization, but continue to operate the company as an independent system and retain the same staff. The directors were giving serious consideration to this second proposal when Bell increased its offer to \$275,000. Bell's final offer was the one approved at a special meeting of the shareholders held in December 1961. Bell took over the operation of the system on February 1, 1962.

Officials of the company at the time it was sold to the Bell Telephone Company were:

J. B. Kennedy	President
Geo. A. McKenzie	Managing Director
Duncan A. Ferguson	Secretary-Treasurer
T. J. Walls	Director
Peter Goudy	Director

Chief operator at the Coldstream switchboard when Bell took over in 1962 was Laura Zavitz, granddaughter of Jacob Marsh, who founded the system. She learned how to operate

a switchboard as a little girl in her grandfather's store and went on to become an operator for the McKenzies when they bought the system. She served in this capacity for some 40 years and on the occasion of her retirement, received many expressions of appreciation for her conscientious service at a reception held in her honour by old friends and subscribers.

The Village of Ivy, located a few miles southwest of Barrie in Simcoe County, was so named because the early settlers found a great deal of poison ivy when they began to clear the land.

The first telephones in the community were installed about 1887. One pair connected the farm homes of George and Henry Davis and another pair was owned by Thomas and Arthur Fletcher.

The Ivy-Thornton Telephone Co. Ltd. was incorporated in 1909 by five district men, George Davis Sr., W. H. Hatton, T. C. Fisher and T. R. Parker, all of Ivy, and John Corbett of Thornton. The exchange was located in the general store owned by W. J. Lennox. By 1913 the company was operating more than 100 phones and the exchange was moved to the kitchen in the home of William Reid, the local mail carrier who also operated a wagon making and wheelwright shop in the village.

The original handwritten agreement between Mr. Reid and George Davis as president of the company is still on file. It provided that the operator must be on duty from 7 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. every weekday and be prepared to take emergency calls at other times. The annual wage was \$200.

William Reid's son, Earl, was a boy of 14 at the time. He was intrigued with the operations of the telephone system and soon became a helper at the switchboard and assisted his father with the maintenance of the lines. Earl took over the management and operation of the system on his father's death in 1926, and after he married in 1930 his wife shared the operating duties with him. When he was out working on the lines, she would pull the kitchen table over to the switchboard and continue with her sewing or cooking while putting through dozens of calls an hour. When Mr. Reid came home at mealtimes, he would take over the board while she prepared dinner. Between calls, he kept up with the necessary bookwork and prepared long distance bills for the subscribers.

The company eventually served almost 350 customers but Mr. and Mrs. Reid did almost all the work. Except in cases of emergency, Mr. Reid worked alone on the outside plant. He would dig a hole for a telephone pole, start the butt in the hole, lift the top onto the ladder of his service truck and slowly back the truck until the pole was set. To tighten wire he would carefully pull it taut with the truck or use a block and tackle.

The Reids knew everyone on the system. When Mr. Reid wished to service a phone, he would notify the subscriber who, if he was not going to be home, would leave his door unlocked so that Mr. Reid could just walk in. Like many small rural systems, the Ivy-Thornton company provided an unofficial answering service. A customer who was going out had only to call the switchboard and messages would be taken for him, or callers would be told when he would return.

During the mid-1960's the company was faced with the necessity of replacing worn out equipment and of providing more modern service to keep up with the times. The directors decided to approach the Bell Telephone Company and an agreement was reached whereby the system was rebuilt to dial standards and finally taken over by Bell in 1967. The Ivy exchange was done away with and the 350 telephones transferred to the Barrie, Camp Borden and Cookstown exchanges. These three exchanges have Extended Area Service between them so that former Ivy-Thornton customers can still call one another without a toll charge.

With the sale of the system, Mr. and Mrs. Reid commenced a well-earned retirement from the telephone business. But Mrs. Reid continued her duties as postmistress, so that the old house where Mr. Reid was born, and from which the telephone system was operated for more than 50 years, continues to be a hive of activity.

The Lansdowne Rural Telephone Co. Ltd. is the last independent telephone system still operating along the St. Lawrence River. It serves almost 1,300 customers in the Village of Lansdowne and the surrounding rural area, including many summer residences in the Thousand Islands near Ivy Lea Bridge.

The company was established in 1906 following a public meeting of local residents interested in obtaining telephone service. More than 100 people signed applications to buy \$50 shares of stock in the proposed company. The shares were to be paid for in five annual payments of \$10 which also entitled the shareholders to telephone service.

At the meeting, a committee was appointed to launch the company and start building lines. The committee prepared by-laws and arranged for a loan of \$1,000 at four percent interest from the Merchants Bank to proceed with the work.

On November 4, 1907, letters patent were issued to incorporate the company and the members of the original committee were listed as directors. They were William J. Webster, Robert J. Mitchell, Oscar W. Landon, Wallace Shipman, William McConnell, Hubert Horton, George F. Deane, George W. Steacy and Charles Fredenburgh.

In May 1908, three small switches which had been in use were replaced by a 100 line cabinet switchboard. This was installed in Mr. Fredenburgh's office and he contracted to do the operating for \$400 a year. Miss Ferne Fredenberg, later Mrs. F. McConnell, became the first full-time operator and J. H. Donevan was hired as lineman at \$2.50 per ten hour day. He had to supply his own horse and wagon.

A trunk line was built in 1911 to connect with the Mallorytown Telephone Co. Ltd. and the Lansdowne system became a member of the Leeds and Grenville Federation. Nine companies belonged to the federation and toll-free calling was provided

between the exchanges of the member systems.

When the company made its first report to the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board in 1913, it was operating more than 300 phones and had built 75 miles of pole line. In 1914, a combined office and operator's residence was built.

During the years, the company grew slowly but steadily. The magneto switchboard was replaced in 1961 with a larger common battery exchange. By this time the company was serving 640 customers.

Demand for new services continued to increase and many subscribers were asking for individual and two-party lines. It was decided, therefore, to take the final step toward modernization of the system. In 1968 a new exchange and office building was erected and dial equipment installed at a cost of approximately \$100,000. Financing for the project was handled by the local branch of the Bank of Montreal making it unnecessary for the company to issue more stock.

Since the cutover to dial, many improvements and additions have been made to outside plant. The number of customers had increased to more than 1,200 by 1975 and an extension to the dial office was installed that year.

Two of the men who contributed greatly to the success of the company were Reece Webster and Charles Tedford. Mr. Webster was lineman and then manager for 36 years. Mr. Tedford was hired as lineman in 1945, became manager in 1952 and served in that capacity until 1973, during the years of the company's greatest growth.

The present manager is Robert Crawford and the secretary-treasurer is Mrs. Marion Nash. Other officers are John MacDonald, president; Robert Webster, vice-president; and D. S. Donevan, R. Todd and L. Horton, directors.

The Leeds and Grenville Independent Telephone Co. Ltd. was incorporated in 1908 with authorized capital of \$40,000. Its charter authorized it to provide telephone service in the Townships of Augusta, Edwardsburg and Elizabethtown in the Counties of Leeds and Grenville. Provisional directors were T. W. Ralph, G. A. Love and R. E. Griggs.

Within two years, the company reported a total of almost 300 phones connected to two exchanges located in the Villages of Spencerville and North Augusta. The first operator at the North Augusta exchange was George Chapman. The exchange was closed at night but Mr. Chapman was paid 20 cents for emergency calls customers wished to put through during off-hours. His home was across the street from the exchange, but he had an emergency bell in the bedroom and when it rang in the middle of the night, he got up, dressed, lit a lantern and walked across to the exchange to take the call. When the villagers saw his lantern moving across the street, they knew that someone in the neighbourhood was sick or had died.

The company was quite progressive and took an active part in the formation of the Leeds and Grenville Federation and later in the Eastern Counties Telephone Association. Miss Berneice M. Eyre, secretary-treasurer of the company for the 35 years prior to its sale was also secretary of the Eastern Counties Association during the full period of its existence.

The company had its share of bad luck. In 1935, the North Augusta exchange was completely destroyed by fire but, with the cooperation of suppliers who rushed equipment to the scene, service was restored within a couple of days from a temporary exchange installed in the village. An even worse blow was suffered in 1942 when a sleet storm swept through the area. Fewer than 25 of the company's 700 phones were left in operation and it was more than a month before all the lines were repaired. The snow and ice buried some lines so deeply that the company did not attempt to salvage them until spring,

but simply erected new lines to restore service.

During the early 1950's the Ontario Telephone Authority endeavoured to sponsor the amalgamation of three or four independent systems in the Counties of Leeds and Grenville. It was considered that together they would form a strong unit that would be large enough to finance a modernization program and provide top grade service to the area. One of the systems decided, however, to sell to Bell. The others eventually followed suit.

A meeting of the shareholders of the Leeds and Grenville Independent Telephone Co. Ltd. in May 1958 approved an offer of \$175,000 for the physical assets of the company and the system was taken over by Bell on April 1, 1959.

Officers at the time the system was sold were: Floyd Bissell, president; Willard Shannon, vice-president; Berneice M. Eyre, secretary-treasurer and W. L. Mathie, Gordon Cummings and Earl Connell, directors.



1925: Self-contained handset
(Courtesy: Automatic Electric)

The Village of Lyndhurst is located in Leeds County about 15 miles northwest of Gananoque. In the early days of the century it was a thriving town with three saw mills, two grist mills, a flour mill, two cheese factories and several hotels. Most of these are now gone and Lyndhurst is a quiet residential village.

Prior to 1909, the only telephone in the village was a Bell long distance phone in Wellington Johnson's store. That year R. G. Harvey, who owned one of the mills, and A. B. White, a local farmer, called a meeting of interested people to discuss the establishment of a telephone system. They decided to proceed and elected a board of directors which included Mr. Harvey as president and Mr. White as secretary. Other directors were: Watson Green, D. W. Green, N. Ralph, R. J. Wood, Dr. J. Chipman, C. T. Sheffield and C. E. Niblock.

The new company signed up 125 shareholders. Each was required to buy a \$10 share when a phone was installed, and \$10 per year for another four years until they had paid in a total of \$50. This included their telephone service. No further shareholders were accepted by the company. Later applicants for service were taken on as renters and paid a higher yearly rate for their phones than the original shareholders.

The neighbouring Leeds and Grenville Independent Telephone Co. Ltd. owned a line with 16 customers on it which ran from Sweet's Corners into Lyndhurst Village. The Lyndhurst Telephone Company bought this line for \$600 and it formed the nucleus of the new system.

More lines were built each year and an exchange was installed in the village. In 1913, the company reported 180 customers and by the early 1920's, it was operating almost 300 phones. A few services were cancelled during the depression but the company did not suffer as much as some others, although its employees had to take a cut in wages.

Early records of the company were lost when the safe in which they were stored was blown open by thieves. The burglars were not the most experienced of safecrackers. They were successful in blowing off the door of the safe but the charge they used set fire to the contents and burned everything inside.

It was decided in 1927 to incorporate the company and obtain a proper charter. A certificate for 10 shares of \$5 value in the reorganized company was issued to everyone who could prove that he had made the original payment of \$50.

The company was still operating approximately 300 phones in the early 1960's. The directors realized that they would soon have to take steps to modernize service or consider getting out of business. They decided to sell and received several offers for the system. An offer of \$65,000 submitted by the Bell Telephone Company was accepted and Bell took over the area on June 1, 1966. A new dial office was installed in the Village of Delta and the Lyndhurst exchange was closed.

The last officers of the company were Howard Landon, president; Ernest Sheffield, secretary-treasurer, and directors Lloyd Irwin, Glen Sweet, Charles Chant and Johnson Plunkett.

When the affairs of the company were wound up, each \$50 share certificate was redeemed for \$550.

Maitland Teleservices Ltd. provides telephone service from modern dial exchanges in the Villages of Blyth, Brussels and Auburn in Huron County. The company was incorporated in 1967 to take over the two municipal systems which had been serving the area.

The Brussels, Morris and Grey Municipal System had been established in 1909 and was serving over 1,100 customers from its Brussels exchange at the time of the merger. The Blyth Municipal Telephone System, established in 1910, contributed approximately 900 phones.

Blyth subscribers were served from new dial exchanges recently installed in the Villages of Auburn and Blyth. The Brussels exchange was of the common battery type and was still manually operated.

The two systems had always worked closely together and the subject of a possible merger was frequently discussed. Their subscribers, although they owned the systems and had built up a considerable equity in them, could not realize this equity unless their system was sold. Furthermore, they received no dividends, as they probably would, if they were shareholders in a limited company.

A number of meetings were held in 1966 between officials of the two systems and representatives of the Ontario Telephone Service Commission. Various methods of amalgamating the systems were discussed. It was decided that the best method would be to incorporate a limited company which would buy the two systems by issuing stock to the subscribers for their equity in them.

Officials of the neighbouring McKillop Municipal Telephone System expressed an interest in becoming a third party to the merger but decided against it when unanimous support of the subscribers was not obtained.

Subscribers of the Blyth system and the Brussels, Morris and Grey system did vote unanimously in favour of the plan at meetings held in May 1967. The new company, called Maitland Teleservices Ltd., took over the two systems later in the year.

Financing for the new company consisted of an issue of \$150,000 first mortgage bonds to retire outstanding debentures of the two municipal systems and common shares of \$10 par value which were issued to the subscribers. It was hoped that additional treasury stock could be sold throughout the community to finance further improvements to the company's plant but few sales materialized. Many of the new shareholders cashed in the shares which had been issued to them.

A large expenditure to install dial equipment in the Brussels exchange could be foreseen and the demand for new service in the company's area was increasing. Unfortunately, when the directors attempted to arrange financing, they found that investment brokers were not willing to sell another bond issue which would be secondary to the outstanding first mortgage bonds.

It soon became evident that the new company which had bravely started in business so recently and which had seemed to have every chance for success had really been under-financed and was in a poor position to obtain further credit.

Therefore, when Bell Canada made an offer in November 1968 to buy all outstanding shares of the company for \$15 each, it soon accumulated a controlling interest. On January 28, 1969, the Ontario Telephone Service Commission issued an order approving the transfer of control to Bell.

Although Bell owned almost all the outstanding Maitland shares, it continued to operate the company under the same name and with its own management and employees.

In 1972, Bell Canada established a subsidiary company

called Telontario Incorporated which was to be used to make any further purchases of independent telephone systems so that they would remain under provincial jurisdiction. It was decided that Maitland Teleservices Ltd. should be owned and operated by the new subsidiary. Bell Canada's interest in Maitland, which comprised almost 98 percent of the outstanding shares, was transferred to Telontario Incorporated on December 31, 1972.

The company still operates under its own name and in 1975 was serving more than 2,500 customers.

One of the first independent telephone systems to operate in Ontario was the Manitoulin and North Shore Telephone and Telegraph Co. Ltd. which was incorporated in 1892 by A. P. Kilgannon and Byron H. Turner, two Little Current businessmen.

A telegraph line was built from Little Current to connect with the Canadian Pacific Railway Line on the mainland. Telephone circuits were established to all the main trading centres on the island in order to generate business for the telegraph line. In the early days, the company provided local service to a few residents of Little Current, but its main business was provision of long distance connection with the Bell Telephone Company and the telegraph systems on the mainland.

After the death of Mr. Kilgannon in 1895, Mr. Turner took over ownership of the company. Following his death in 1921, ownership passed to his son, Grant H. Turner.

Grant Turner recalls that as soon as he was old enough, in the early days of the century, he was put to work as a messenger boy. At that time, there were only a few phones in town and the switchboard was closed at night. In order to take emergency calls, the phone in the Turner home was patched in to the long distance circuits. It was his duty, in all kinds of weather, to relay messages to the local doctor who was not always happy to receive them in the middle of a cold winter night.

By 1956, when the company was sold to the Bell Telephone Company, it was operating a network of long distance circuits on the island, as well as providing local service to approximately 350 customers in the Town of Little Current.

Between 1910 and 1920, more than a dozen local systems were established on the island. The Elizabeth Bay Mutual Telephone Company and the Evansville Mutual Telephone Company, which served the Townships of Burpee and Robinson, were merged

to form the Burpee Municipal Telephone System in 1930. The Barrie Island Telephone Co. Ltd. operated approximately 30 phones in that township. The West Campbell and Mills Telephone Co. Ltd. had a small exchange at Poplar and the Billings Mutual Telephone Co. Ltd. operated 65 phones from an exchange at Kagawong. The Robinson Rural Telephone Co. Ltd. had 40 phones at Silverwater and the Dawson Township Amalgamated Telephone Co. Ltd. operated 20 phones from an exchange at Meldrum Bay. The Howland Municipal Telephone System had more than 100 phones on its exchange at Sheguiandah when it was purchased by Bell in 1958.

Two larger systems were also established between 1910 and 1920. The Gore Bay Municipal Telephone System operated 600 phones on an exchange at Gore Bay and also provided switching facilities for the Ice Lake Telephone Co. Ltd. and the Gordon Telephone Co. Ltd. The Manitoulin Island Rural Telephone Co. Ltd. operated approximately 800 phones from four exchanges at Manitowaning, Mindemoya, Providence Bay and Tehkummah, and provided switching for the Assiginac Municipal Telephone System from its Manitowaning exchange.

The Gore Bay Municipal Telephone System was organized in 1913. The first secretary-treasurer and manager was F. W. Major, publisher of the local weekly paper and for a time, both businesses were operated in the same building. The last secretary was G. F. Porter who served in that position for 12 years.

The Bell Telephone Company made an offer to purchase the system in 1958 but the subscribers decided not to accept the offer and instead sold the system to the municipality of the Town of Gore Bay for a dollar, so that from that time on, it was operated as a public utility. Ten years later, in 1968, another offer was received from Bell Canada and the ratepayers approved the sale for \$120,000. The following year, the system was converted to dial operation.

With the purchase of the Gore Bay system, Bell Canada

owned the telephone facilities in Little Current and Gore Bay, the two large towns on the island, and also all the toll facilities. It planned to purchase the remaining systems in order that the whole island would be served by one company. It was felt that this would be desirable because of the economies which would result when one system was responsible for the planning and operation of the entire island communications network. Bell Canada was successful in making arrangements to buy all the small systems serving Western Manitoulin. These were rebuilt and taken over on a gradual basis between 1970 and 1972, but the larger Manitoulin Island Rural Telephone Co. Ltd. would not accept the offer made by Bell.

Bell's estimate of the value of the system took into consideration the fact that it would cost a large amount of money to rebuild and modernize it, while the company management considered that it was worth much more because of the potential for future growth in the area. In any case, the two principles could not come to terms and Bell Canada finally broke off negotiations. At that time, Bell was beginning to find it increasingly difficult to raise new capital and considered that the money it had budgeted to rebuild this system could perhaps be better spent elsewhere.

In the meantime, subscribers of the Manitoulin Island Rural Telephone Co. Ltd. became increasingly dissatisfied with their telephone service, particularly so when they compared it with the modern dial service being provided to their neighbours at Gore Bay and Little Current.

The management of the company finally realized that something must be done to satisfy the demands of its subscribers, but since it could not itself finance a rebuild program, the only solution to the problem was to sell the system. The Bell Canada offer had been withdrawn, so it was necessary to look elsewhere for a prospective buyer, and negotiations were initiated with an American telephone company. A deal was eventually made with Harold Ericson of the Frontier Telephone Company in Minnesota whereby Frontier would incorporate a Canadian subsidiary to be known as the Manitoulin Island Telephone Co. Ltd. which would

purchase the assets of the Manitoulin Island Rural Telephone Co. Ltd. for \$150,000 and also take over the Assiginac Municipal Telephone System whose phones had been switched at the Manitowaning exchange.

Takeover of the old system took place on January 1, 1971, and the new company immediately proceeded with its plans for rehabilitation. Dial exchanges to serve the whole area were installed at Manitowaning in 1972 and Mindemoya in 1973 and extensive additions were made to outside plant. The number of phones in service doubled from 800 to 1,600 in the first four years of the new system's operation.

The 14 systems which pioneered telephone service on Manitoulin Island have now been replaced by just two, Bell Canada and the Manitoulin Island Telephone Co. Ltd., and island residents enjoy modern dial service equal to that provided anywhere in Ontario.



1928: Self-contained Wall Dial Telephone
(Courtesy: Automatic Electric)

When it was sold to Bell Canada in 1969, the Manvers Municipal Telephone System served more than 400 customers from a manual exchange at Bethany in the County of Durham.

Until 1911 there were only two single wire telephone lines into Bethany. One was owned by Stephen W. Sisson, an implement dealer, who built a line from his premises to the railway station. The other line ran from Brick Corners to Dr. T. G. Brereton's office in Bethany.

In 1911 Dr. J. J. Hamilton began to interest farmers throughout Manvers and Cavan Townships in building their own lines. Within the next two or three years a dozen little one-line systems had started in business. Dr. Hamilton owned a share in each of them and all the lines terminated at his house. At first he was able to handle the transfer of calls from one line to another with a series of switches, but as more lines were built, he found that he had to install a proper switchboard.

A meeting of all the shareholders of all the little systems was called in 1915 and they decided to form the Bethany Telephone Union. The Union entered into an agreement with Dr. Hamilton whereby he provided the office space and switchboard and the members of the Union paid the operator. Miss Ida Fallis was the first operator.

The following systems were members of the Bethany Telephone Union:

Brick Corners Telephone Line	18	telephones
Franklin Telephone Line	17	"
Glen Telephone Company	12	"
Manvers 7th & 8th Line Tel. System	20	"
Manvers Station Telephone Line	12	"
New Lifford Telephone Line	12	"
Ninth Line of Cavan Tel. System	7	"
North Mutual Tel. Line of Cavan	16	"
Old Lifford Telephone Line	16	"
Sissons Telephone System	16	"
South Manvers Telephone Association	14	"
Tenth Line of Cavan Tel. System	8	"

AUCTION SALE OF ANTIQUE TELEPHONES, MAGNETO TELEPHONES **REAL ESTATE**

SWITCH-BOARDS, TOOLS, CABLES, ETC.

THE PROPERTY OF

MANVERS MUNICIPAL TELEPHONE SYSTEM

BETHANY ONT.

SAT., JUNE 6th

175 Antique Old style magneto telephones (Long Box)
175 - N1717 CG Magneto Telephones. (The latest Model Magneto Telephones made). All in working condition (Small Boxes)

One early antique. One position.
Northern Electric Switch Board

One 1937. One position.
Northern Electric Switch Board
Head sets. 1 Ton - Chain Hoist
1 - 500' Roll of 2 pr. drop cord
2 pr. - Single Wire Stretchers
Telephone Batteries.

New ground rods & Lightning arresters. Truck Chains
Climbing Telephone Harness, Spurs, etc.

Ladders. Brush cutters
Magneto telephone repair supplies
New cross arms. Different sizes
2 wheel trailer. 150 gal oil tank.
50 Telephone poles (new)
22' to 25' long
1/2 Ton #135 steel telephone wire, New
Large wood heater
2 Oil space heaters

1961 Chev. 1/2 Ton Truck, recently overhauled. Equipped with shelves for stocking parts.
Metal Cabinet.

Quantity of New Cable
19 Gauge 25 pr. Alpth
Sheathed cable
22 Gauge 37 pr. Alpth
Sheathed cable
Figure 8 Rural Distribution ware
19 Gauge, 6 pr.
Figure 8 Rural Distribution ware
19 Gauge, 11 pr.
Rural Distribution open wave,
19 Gauge, 18 pr.

REAL ESTATE

A 1 1/2 storey white frame house with bath. 4 bedrooms. Medium size house. Heavy duty hydro, 3 wires. Lot 66' x 132'. Lot #2, Plan #5 of the Village of Bethany. Cement block garage with steel overhead door. (Subject to Reserve Bid)

AS THE MANVERS MUNICIPAL TELEPHONE SYSTEM HAS RECENTLY BEEN TAKEN OVER BY THE BELL, THIS SALE PRESENTS A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO BUY ANTIQUE TELEPHONES, ANTIQUE SWITCH-BOARDS, ETC. THE PROPERTY IS VERY ATTRACTIVE IN A BEAUTIFULL VILLAGE AND ANYONE WISHING TO RESIDE IN THE COUNTRY SHOULD ATTEND THIS SALE.

SALE 12:30 p.m. sharp

TED JACKSON
ED SPENCELEY AUCTIONEERS

PROPRIETOR or AUCTIONEER

WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY PUBLIC LIABILITY, PROPERTY DAMAGE OR INJURY TO THE PUBLIC IN CONNECTION WITH THIS AUCTION SALE

The Union operated satisfactorily for a few years but, as the number of phones increased, it became apparent that a different form of organization would be more efficient. Petitions were circulated throughout Manvers Township to form a municipal telephone system. A public meeting was held in the township hall in Bethany on September 21, 1921, and the Manvers Municipal Telephone System was organized to take over the Bethany Telephone Union and all its members.

The first commissioners elected were Henry Ward, J. J. Clark and William Whiteside. Walter A. Jakeman was appointed secretary-treasurer.

The switchboard remained in Dr. Hamilton's office until 1923 when it was decided that the system should have its own public premises. An office in the village was rented by the system until 1931 when it purchased a house to serve as combined exchange and dwelling for the operator.

The Manvers Municipal Telephone System started with 187 phones in 1921. In 1927 it took over the Pontypool Telephone Co. Ltd. with 43 phones and in 1953, the South Janetville Telephone Co. Ltd. with 19 phones. By the early 1960's, it was operating almost 400 phones.

The management realized that steps would have to be taken to modernize the service if the system was to remain in business. The Ontario Telephone Service Commission was asked in 1966 to make a study of the feasibility of converting the system to dial. The study indicated that it might not be a profitable proposition, particularly if toll-free calling was provided to Lindsay and Peterborough.

It was decided, therefore, to sell the system. Several large telephone companies were invited to submit bids for its purchase. A deal with Bell Canada was arranged in the spring of 1968, whereby Bell would convert the system to dial, furnish Extended Area Service to Lindsay and Peterborough, pay \$80,000 for usable outside plant and an extra sum of \$12,250 for the

removal of plant which was being replaced.

The system was cut over to dial operation and Bell Canada took over the area on December 7, 1969. The old plant was removed the following spring and an auction sale of old phones, equipment and real estate was held on June 6, 1970. The sale was very successful. Antique buyers came from miles away to bid on the old magneto phones.

The affairs of the system were wound up by the end of the year, and a few days before Christmas, each of the 175 subscribers received a cheque for \$774 as his share of the assets.

AND SYSTEMS IN THE MARMORA AREA

The Bell Telephone Company early established an exchange and provided telephone service in the Village of Marmora in the County of Hastings. It did not develop the adjacent rural areas, where construction costs were high due to the rocky terrain, and estimated profits were low because of the sparse population.

Over the years, however, five small independent systems did accept the responsibility of furnishing service to these areas. One man was the guiding hand behind all of them. He was instrumental in getting them started, supervised their construction and, in some cases, looked after their maintenance.

His name was Charles Jones and he led a full and interesting life. His grandfather was a "remittance man" from England who bought a large tract of land north of Marmora and ran a prosperous hotel business there for many years. Charles operated farms, a feed business, was a land surveyor and eventually became the last commissioner of the Canada Company and was responsible for winding up its affairs.

The Canada Company was one of a number of British Corporations which were set up to encourage migration to the colonies. John Galt, after whom the City of Galt was named, was one of the original partners. In 1826, they obtained a Royal Charter and bought two and a half million acres of Crown Lands in Upper Canada to be resold to any settlers the company could induce to emigrate from the Old Country. As many as 30,000 did arrive in a single year and a sizeable proportion of the present population of Ontario is made up of descendents of settlers brought over by the Canada Company. By the early 1950's, all the land had been sold except for a 5,000 acre tract known as the Pinery in the Grand Bend area. It was Mr. Jones' responsibility to subdivide and sell this acreage and then wind up the affairs of the company.

In addition to his varied business interests, Charles Jones was a great man for hobbies. He was interested in photography and developed and printed all his own pictures. He owned the first radio set in the neighbourhood, which he built from instructions contained in a magazine article. As a young man, he became very interested in telephony.

Early in 1914, he organized a committee of local residents to look into the cost of establishing a local telephone system in the area north of Marmora and to canvass the community to see how many people might be interested. The canvass produced 27 prospective subscribers, all of whom agreed to buy their own phones and build one-half mile of line. By midsummer of that year, the line was in operation under the name of the Northern Mutual Telephone Company with switching to the outside world handled by the Bell exchange in Marmora. The company was later incorporated and its name was changed to the Beaver Creek Telephone Co. Ltd.

The following year, Hugh Maloney persuaded Mr. Jones to build a line for him from North Marmora to the village through the "Long Swamp" and the Marmora Rural Telephone Company commenced operations with 13 customers. More and more people in the area asked for phones and when Mr. Maloney's single line was unable to handle the demand, officials of the Township of Marmora decided to establish a municipal system. They purchased the Marmora Rural Telephone Company from Mr. Maloney in 1923 and approached Mr. Jones for advice on how to expand the system. He became the first secretary of the Marmora Municipal Telephone System and supervised the building of five more lines connecting to the Bell exchange in the village.

At about the same time, another group from the area asked Mr. Jones for advice. He helped them organize and build the Lily Creek Telephone Company, which operated just one line into the Marmora exchange for the next 40 years.

For many years, the Eastwood sisters, who operated the Bell exchange at Marmora, shut up shop at 10 p.m. and went

home. If it was necessary for a subscriber to make an emergency call to someone on another line, he had to go to the Eastwood home and have one of the sisters reopen the exchange to put the call through for him. Mr. Jones was able to eliminate this nuisance for the three Beaver Creek lines which happened to run past his home. He ran them through a double-throw switch inside the house, and if a subscriber on one of the lines wished to contact someone on either of the other lines, he was able to call Mr. Jones who would obligingly switch him through. It is likely that Mr. Jones, and probably most of the other people on the line, monitored any such call to make sure that it was of sufficient importance to warrant his getting out of bed in the middle of the night.

Mr. Jones provided another extra service to the three lines which passed his home. In the early 1920's, when his was one of the few radios in the neighbourhood, he would hook it up to the lines so that when they were not in use, people could pick up their receivers and listen to music or the news.

Mr. Jones maintained his interest in the three remaining little systems until 1940, when his duties with the Canada Company required a lot of travelling throughout the province. His son, Douglas, continued for another 10 years to look after any necessary maintenance on the three Marmora systems and also maintained the Belmont Municipal Telephone System at Havelock, which his father had helped to organize.

In 1962, the Bell Telephone Company converted the Marmora exchange to dial operation. The Beaver Creek and Marmora Municipal Systems decided that they were too small to finance the capital cost of rebuilding their lines to dial standards, which would have been necessary if the new exchange was to continue to serve them. They, therefore, requested Bell to take over the provision of service to their subscribers and went out of business.

First mention of the Metcalfe system is made in the February 1910 issue of the "Telephone Gazette". The Gazette noted that the Metcalfe Rural Telephone Association, which was starting in business with 10 subscribers, had signed a connecting agreement with the Bell Telephone Company of Canada.

By the time it submitted its first report to the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board in 1914, the company had been incorporated as the Metcalfe Rural Telephone Co. Ltd. and was operating more than 300 phones from its own exchange in the Village of Metcalfe, a few miles south of Ottawa in Carleton County. Except for the depression years, the company experienced steady growth. It was serving approximately 850 customers by 1961.

A short distance away, at Navan, the Cumberland Telephone System had a similar pattern of growth. It had started in 1911 as the Russell Rural Telephone Co. Ltd. which was taken over, with approximately 300 phones, by the Township of Cumberland in 1933. The Township operated it for 10 years as a municipal telephone system and then sold the physical assets to J. E. Dunfield, who operated as the Cumberland Telephone System. Following Mr. Dunfield's death, the business was purchased in 1953 by E. G. Kinsella who continued to operate it under the same name. By 1961, the Cumberland Telephone System was reporting more than 600 telephones.

Carl Johnson of Kenora, who had had considerable experience with telephone systems in Northern Ontario, formed a small syndicate in 1961 and purchased the Cumberland system from Mr. Kinsella. He also bought a controlling interest in the stock of the Metcalfe Rural Telephone Co. Ltd. The new owners operated the two systems under their own names for a short time and then incorporated a new company, Metcalfe Telephones Limited, which absorbed them both.

The new company started in 1962 with 1,500 phones and high hopes for the future. It had an excellent location

on the outskirts of Ottawa and made elaborate plans to serve the growing population in the area which was rapidly becoming a suburb of the capital city. Unfortunately, the company had difficulty in financing the large capital expenditures which were necessary. The modernization program which had been planned began to fall behind.

Many petitions and letters were received by the Ontario Telephone Service Commission from subscribers who complained of poor service and from new residents who complained that they could get no service at all. A public hearing was convened in Metcalfe on July 14, 1964. More than 500 irate customers and prospective customers attended to air their complaints.

Following the hearing, the Commission ordered the company to file its plan for improved service within a month. After many delays, a plan was submitted but it was felt by the Commission to be inadequate and poorly engineered. The Commission's own engineers then drew up plans which were deemed satisfactory and by an order dated January 6, 1965, the company was instructed to complete a construction program based on the Commission's plan. Completion dates were specified for each phase of the plan. The company endeavoured to comply with the order but was unable to meet its requirements.

Metcalfe Telephones Ltd. received a final knockout blow in late November of 1965 when a violent sleet storm struck the area. Hundreds of customers were left without service, some for as long as three weeks. The Commission finally decided that Metcalfe Telephones Ltd. was not furnishing "continuous telephone service that adequately and efficiently meets the needs of the public in the territory in which it operates" as required by The Telephone Act. The management of the company was advised by the Commission that it must sell the system to a larger organization which was capable of financing a complete rebuild and modernization program or steps would be taken to cancel its franchise.



Ploughing Cable

(Courtesy: Ministry of Agriculture and Food)

On January 11, 1966, the deadline set by the Commission, Metcalfe Telephones Ltd. applied for approval of the sale of its system to the Bell Telephone Company, effective as of the same date. The sales agreement provided for a total cash payment of \$750,000 plus cancellation of amounts already owed to Bell by the company for storm damage repair, long distance commissions, etc. It also provided that Bell would take over contracts made by the company with various equipment suppliers.

The company was operating approximately 1,800 telephones at the date of the sale.

In 1974, the Muskoka and Parry Sound Telephone Co. Ltd. reported a total of only 1,250 phones, but it serves one of the largest areas of any system in Ontario. Its territory extends from just north of Huntsville to Burk's Falls, east to Kearney and Sand Lake, and west to Sprucedale, Magnetawan and Ahmic Harbour. It is a vast, sparsely populated area whose residents are chiefly engaged in farming or the tourist resort business. The nature of the terrain is such that construction of telephone plant is difficult and expensive. The company operates three dial exchanges at Emsdale, Sprucedale and Magnetawan and also owns approximately 150 service station phones which are switched by the Bell exchange at Burk's Falls.

The history of the company goes back to 1907 when W. Elmer Campsall established the Muskoka Independent Telephone System in the vicinity of Sprucedale and W. J. Snaith incorporated the Ahmic Telephone Co. Ltd. in the Ahmic Harbour-Magnetawan area. Their early reports to the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board show that by 1913 each system was operating about 60 phones.

The Ahmic Telephone Co. Ltd. appears to have fallen on bad times because the Board reports for 1919-22 show it as "not operating". In 1922 its remaining assets were sold to the recently organized Magnetawan Municipal Telephone System for \$532.17. These assets consisted of eight miles of pole line with five phones, together with eight spare phones and other material.

The Magnetawan system was established in late 1920 with the Village of Magnetawan as the originating municipality. It started operations with almost 100 phones, some of which were switched by the Bell exchange at Burk's Falls, and the rest at its own exchange in the village. The first subscribers' meeting was held on December 11, 1920, and Messrs. J. W. Troyer, S. E. P. Marsden and Geo. Nelson were elected commissioners. J. W. Troyer was subsequently appointed chairman of the commission and held that office until the early 1930's. He was followed by T. J. Daley, A. W. Woolgar, M. S. Godfrey,

Gordon E. Raaflaub, Emerson Bates and Henry Rosskopf, the last serving from 1950 until the system was sold and its affairs wound up in 1969.

The system suffered a bit of a setback in 1957 when it was found that the man who had been employed as secretary-treasurer for some 20 years had been dipping into the till in order to finance his investments in the stock market. He was also an official of the local school board and two adjacent townships, and was able to take them for even larger amounts. Mrs. E. P. Rosskopf, wife of the chairman, took over the secretary's job with the telephone system and eventually managed to get the books straightened away. It was a difficult task because the manipulations had been going on for a number of years. Mrs. Rosskopf even discovered that the lineman had received no wages during the previous year, quite a tribute to the former secretary's ability as a confidence man. It was necessary for the system to pay the poor man off in installments, because funds were not available to bring his salary up to date with a lump sum payment.

Meanwhile, Elmer Campsall had been extending his lines in the Sprucedale area, and by the late 1920's, he was operating small exchanges at Sprucedale, Yearly and Etwell. In 1921, he bought the Emsdale-Kearney area with its exchange at Emsdale from George Mason and renamed his system the Muskoka and Parry Sound Telephone System. It was incorporated as a limited company in 1927.

During the depression years, very little cash circulated in the area. Most telephone accounts were paid with a bushel of carrots, a bag of potatoes or a side of bacon. This meant that, though the Campsall family did not have to miss any meals, the company had problems in paying for maintenance supplies. In many cases a broken line was repaired with barbed wire from a farmer's fence or the circuit was run on fence wires.

Conditions improved after the war. In 1955 Mr. Campsall installed a small two-digit dial office at



1929: One of the first coloured phones.

(Courtesy: Automatic Electric)

Sprucedale. In 1958, he sold his system to Ed Grasley, a native of the area and a former employee, who had been working for the Chinguacousy Municipal Telephone System at Brampton. Mr. Grasley continued to build up the system. In 1966, he built a modern dial office at Emsdale and replaced the two-digit equipment at Sprucedale with a seven-digit dial office.

By 1967, the Magnetawan company had decided that it should either modernize its system by converting to dial or sell out to someone who would. Several discussions were held with Ed Grasley and an agreement was finally reached whereby the Muskoka and Parry Sound Telephone Co. Ltd. would buy the system for \$30,000; and at the same time, guarantee to convert it to dial operation within two years.

In order to finance the purchase of the Magnetawan system and its conversion to dial, Mr. Grasley sold a block of stock to Harold J. Schmidt of Baden, Ontario, a gentleman who had been active in the independent telephone field for many years. The purchase was completed on January 1, 1968, and the Magnetawan exchange was converted to dial in April 1970. Unfortunately, plans to switch the Burk's Falls service station phones at the new Magnetawan dial exchange could not be completed at that time, due to Bell Canada's cutback in its Extended Area Service program, and the combined operation was not as profitable as had been anticipated.

By 1972, Mr. Schmidt had increased his holdings in the capital stock of the company to a controlling interest. Mr. Grasley resigned as manager of the system although he retained ownership of a minority interest in the stock. He now operates an earth-moving business in Magnetawan, and Mr. Schmidt has taken over as general manager of the telephone company.

The Noisy River Telephone Co. Ltd. was founded in 1908 at the Hamlet of Dunedin, four miles west of Creemore in Simcoe County. Ten progressive farmers and businessmen met in the home of D. G. Mitchell, the general merchant and postmaster, to discuss the possibility of building a local telephone system. Before the meeting had adjourned, the initial steps were taken to organize a company capitalized at \$10 thousand. At this first meeting, it was decided to name the company after the little river that flowed through the village.

A charter was obtained and the 10 men who had attended the original meeting were named provisional directors. They worked energetically selling five dollar shares of stock throughout the community and sufficient capital was soon raised to warrant the start of construction. During the first year, 14 miles of pole line were erected and 19 telephone sets were installed. At first, the Bell Telephone Company would not grant connecting privileges to the little company, but after a short while and the cutting of considerable red tape, the system was permitted to connect with the Bell exchange at Creemore and its lines were switched at that exchange.

At the end of its first year in business, the company's treasury was depleted and the individual directors had to subscribe for more shares to finance further building. Fortunately, the demand for telephone service in the rural community began to increase as soon as a few phones had been installed. By 1913 the Noisy River company had extended its lines to Singhampton, Stayner and New Lowell, and was operating 400 phones including five or six taken over when it bought out the Oakview Telephone Co. Ltd., which served into Wasaga Beach.

In 1915 the company purchased a building in Creemore and moved its head office from Dunedin. R. J. Bryce,

the manager of the Noisy River system, was appointed by Bell to manage its exchange and phones in Creemore and Bell's manager at Stayner managed the Noisy River lines, which were switched at that exchange. Mr. Bryce was the manager of the Noisy River company from 1910 to 1945.

In 1916, the company purchased the Highland Telephone Co. Ltd., with 55 phones. The Highland system had been founded in 1910 by the local doctor in Honeywood, who built a line from Honeywood to the Bell exchange at Creemore. The original line was intended for his own use, but other lines were added when his friends and neighbours asked him to supply them with telephone service.

Until 1929, the Noisy River system had not operated any exchanges of its own. It was a "service station" company whose lines were switched by the Bell exchanges at Creemore and Stayner. In that year, the company took a big step forward when it was able to buy these two exchanges together with the Bell phones in the two towns.

In 1945, Vincent Flynn took over as manager of the Noisy River system. He served in that capacity until just before the company was sold when he resigned to become a full-time member of the Ontario Telephone Service Commission. Mr. Flynn was later appointed Chairman of the Commission, a post he held from 1958 to 1972. The Noisy River system saw its greatest expansion during Mr. Flynn's regime when the number of subscribers was almost doubled. One of his first moves was the installation of a switchboard at Wasaga Beach to provide better service to subscribers there.

The company was reorganized in 1950 and the name changed to Noisy River Telephones Ltd. A common battery exchange to replace the old magneto equipment was installed in a new building in Stayner and the business office was moved from Creemore to Stayner. In 1955 an automatic dial

exchange was installed at New Lowell to help accommodate the demand for new services in that area; and in 1956 the Everett Telephone Co. Ltd. was purchased, which added another exchange with 150 subscribers to the system. The Everett system had been founded in 1915 by Dr. T. W. McKnight of that village. It had absorbed the Cauthers Telephone System, earlier owned by Peter Blair of Rosemount, in 1939.

The directors decided in 1956 that the time was approaching when a very large capital expenditure would be necessary to convert the whole system to dial. They decided to investigate the possibility of selling out. When it became known that the system was for sale the Bell Telephone Company and two other companies made offers to purchase it. The Bell offer was approved by the shareholders at a meeting held in August 1956 and the fixed assets of the system were taken over by Bell at the end of the year.

The officers of the company at the time of the sale were: C. B. Smith, president; Paul Stevens, vice-president; G. J. Thomson, secretary; Earl Cubitt, director. L. Peaker of Creemore was the auditor and assistant secretary.

Bell Canada operated the system as it was for several years. In 1964, the remaining exchanges were converted to dial operation.

In terms of area served, Northern Telephone Ltd. is the largest system under provincial jurisdiction. It is second only to the Thunder Bay system with respect to number of phones. In 1974, Thunder Bay operated approximately 70,000 phones, while Northern owned 58,000 in Ontario and its subsidiary, Telephone du Nord de Quebec Inc. another 65,000 in Quebec. Including subsidiaries, Northern operates 83 exchanges, employs 750 people and has a total plant investment of \$85 million. Its main exchanges are located in Haileybury, New Liskeard, Kirkland Lake, Timmins, Kapuskasing and Hearst.

The company was first organized in 1905 under the name of the Temiskaming Telephone Co. Ltd. It is said to have been founded because two partners in a sawmill business at New Liskeard, Thomas McCamus and Angus McKelvie, found their lungs giving out because they had to shout between the office and the lumber yard. They decided that "while we still have some breath left, let's get one of these newfangled telephone systems".

The first Board of Directors included Mr. McCamus, F. S. Brickenden, J. J. Sparling, D. T. K. McEwen, W. J. Middleton, W. Hugh and D. Stewart. Mr. McCamus became the first president of the company and served in that capacity for almost 50 years.

The little company opened its first exchange in rented quarters in New Liskeard with lines to nearby small communities and soon began to expand its operations. In 1906, it rejected a takeover bid from the Bell Telephone Company and instead purchased the Ville Marie Telephone Company on the Quebec side of Lake Temiskaming. The following year it extended service to the rich silver mining town of Cobalt, where it competed for customers with the Haileybury and Cobalt Telephone Co. Ltd. The Temiskaming company promptly solved the competition problem by buying out the Haileybury and Cobalt company, and the Tri-town area was then served by a single system. Ironically, within a week of taking over the exchange at Haileybury, it was destroyed by fire with loss of switchboard and all equipment.



Thomas McCamus
President
Temiskaming Telephone Co. Ltd.

(Courtesy: Canadian Telephone Journal)

During the same year, the company erected a small building to house its New Liskeard exchange and business office. The property and materials for the building were purchased from Messrs. McCamus and McKelvie and they took most of their payment in stock of the company. They never had reason to regret their faith in the ultimate success of the little company.

1907 was also the year when P. R. Craven began his long and useful career with the company. He started as a night-operator, but within a year had been appointed secretary-treasurer and general manager, in which capacity he served until his death in 1952. He was succeeded by Donald McKelvie, son of Angus McKelvie. Donald later became president and then chairman of the board.

The Temiskaming Telephone Co. Ltd. suffered one serious setback in its early days. The disastrous forest fire of 1922 destroyed one fourth of the system, including two-thirds of the Haileybury plant and telephones, all of the Charlton plant and 30 miles of rural lines. The fire started in the Cobalt area and swept west through Haileybury until it was stopped at Lake Temiskaming and finally burnt itself out. Hundreds of residents of the town had to take refuge in the lake where they stood all afternoon and most of the night in cold water up to their necks with wet blankets over their heads to protect them from sparks and heat. Among the many stories of heroism during the fire, one is told of Ila Keddie, the young operator at the Haileybury exchange, who stuck with her job until the flames actually started to burn the switchboard.

Many people in the area lost their homes and all their possessions and many businesses were totally destroyed. The telephone company was particularly unfortunate since, at that time, insurance was not available on telephone plant. The company had to bear the total loss. However, the lines were soon rebuilt and the system expanded even farther as farming communities and mining camps spread to the north.



Donald McKelvie
Chairman of the Board
Northern Telephone Limited

(Courtesy: Canadian Telephone Journal)

The company also had problems with some of the municipalities it served. When the Cobalt exchange was converted to dial in 1953, F. L. Hutchinson, who was president at that time, gave a talk in which he recalled that relations between the company and the city fathers had not always been so pleasant.

During the First World War, town officials became convinced that rates were much too high and demanded that they be lowered or they would refuse to renew the company's franchise. Everyone in town took sides in the fight. At one point some hotheads decided to take matters into their own hands and, using a hacksaw, cut through the large lead cable where it entered the exchange. This instantly cut off service to everyone; doctors, hospital, firehall, mines and businesses, and it took time to repair. The incident backfired because it threw the sympathy of some of the public on the side of the exasperated company employees who had to fix the damage. The matter was finally brought before the Municipal Board and then the Supreme Court of Canada, where the town's right to cancel the franchise was upheld. However, since the company refused to provide service at rates which would result in a loss, the two parties had to get together and reach a compromise agreement, which is what they should have done in the first place.

Down through the years, the company has continued its aggressive expansion policy by extending its plant into new territory and by absorbing existing systems. By 1928, it was felt that the company's name did not properly indicate the scope of its operations. A new charter was obtained in the name of Northern Telephone Company Limited. A further change of name occurred in 1960 when the company was amalgamated with Norwesto Communications Ltd. and became Northern Telephone Limited. Norwesto operated an extensive radio telephone system in the Kenora-Red Lake district and also operated the 500 telephone exchange at Red Lake through its subsidiary, the Red Lake Telephone Co. Ltd.

Other systems absorbed or purchased by Northern or its predecessor, Temiskaming, include:

- 1916 - Winlaw Telephone Co.
- 1922 - Armstrong Telephone Co. Ltd.
- 1928 - Porcupine Power & Telephone Co. Ltd.
- 1941 - Kerns Municipal Telephone System
- 1942 - Hilliard Municipal Telephone System
- 1957 - La Compagnie de Telephone du Nord Ltee.
- Algoma Central Telephone Co. Ltd.
- 1961 - Lake St. Joseph Telephone Co. Ltd.
- Telephone d'Harricana and Gatineau Ltee.
- Abitibi Telephone Inc.
- Chibougamau Telephone Ltd.
- 1963 - Beaudry Telephone System
- Calvert Municipal Telephone System
- 1964 - Blais Telephone Inc.
- 1967 - La Sarre Telephone Inc.

In 1966, the Bell Telephone Company acquired control of the company when it purchased 95 percent of the outstanding common stock, but aside from appointing Bell officials to the Board of Directors, the management and staff were not materially changed.

By this time, Northern was providing telecommunication services throughout a vast area stretching west from Chibougamau, Quebec, to the Manitoba border, and north from Cobalt, Sault Ste. Marie and Atikokan to Hudson Bay. The bulk of the company's phones, however, was concentrated in the eastern section of the territory. In 1969 it was decided that certain economies in overhead could be realized if the western division was managed directly by Bell. A deal was, therefore, arranged whereby Northern sold all its assets west of Hearst to the parent company for approximately \$6 million. These assets included 27 exchanges and some 8,700 phones.

Northern Telephone Ltd. now maintains a few long distance lines in Ontario, but by far the greatest portion of its toll traffic is carried by Ontario Northland Communications Ltd., a subsidiary of the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission which is owned and operated by the Government of Ontario. Northern receives a commission on toll generated

at its exchanges under a traffic agreement with ONTC in the same way that other independent systems receive toll compensation under traffic agreements they conclude with Bell Canada. Ontario Northland's toll lines extended for many years into Quebec as far as Rouyn-Noranda, but in 1973 Northern's Quebec subsidiary purchased all of Ontario Northland's communications assets located in Quebec.

Northern's dial conversion program started in 1952 with the cutover of the Cobalt exchange. The next dozen years saw the conversion of all major exchanges, the last being Kirkland Lake in 1965. By December 1974, the entire system was on dial service when three small exchanges at Matachewan, Larder Lake and Virginiatown were converted. Northern was the first independent company in Ontario to make use of automated data processing to handle customer billing, payroll and inventory control.

From a small operation, born of a desire for convenience, Northern Telephone Ltd. has grown until its plant now provides modern, efficient communications service to a vast region in Northeastern Ontario.

The North Frontenac Telephone Co. Ltd. operates almost 1,000 phones from two dial exchanges at Parham and Sharbot Lake in Frontenac County. Among its customers, the company numbers a great many summer residents who have built cottages on the numerous lakes in the area.

The history of the company began in 1907 when J. L. Ben established a telephone system in the Long Lake area. Mr. Ben operated the system under his own name until 1913, when it became known as the Long Lake Rural Telephone Company. That year, he reported ownership of 107 phones to the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board.

The name was changed in 1921 to the Arden and Long Lake Telephone System. The next year, Mr. Ben sold the system to Edward Barker of Arden who again changed the name to the Arden and Parham Telephone System. The following year, Mr. Barker sold the company to Everett Scott, who also lived in Arden. By this time, the company owned three small exchanges in the Villages of Arden, Sharbot Lake and Parham and was operating 150 phones.

Mr. Scott ran the business until 1946, when he split the territory. He sold the Arden exchange, with approximately 100 phones, to J. B. Taylor of Arden; and the Sharbot Lake and Parham exchanges, with their total of approximately 100 phones, to Verdun Morrow who had recently moved to Sharbot Lake.

Mr. Taylor operated his part of the old company as the Arden Telephone System. He sold out to the Bell Telephone Company in 1960 for \$8,500.

Mr. Morrow named his portion the Sharbot Lake and Parham Telephone System and operated it under that name until 1956, when the company was incorporated and renamed the Morrow Telephone Co. Ltd.

That same year the system installed a small exchange

at Plevna at the extreme north end of its area. This exchange was connected to the Sharbot Lake exchange for long distance service by radio link. In 1961, Mr. Morrow sold the Plevna exchange and the 50 phones it served to Robert Sproule, who operated as the Plevna Telephone System. The Plevna system was taken over the following year by the Kaladar and Northern Telephone System.

The whole area was experiencing a rapid increase in population and a growing demand for telephone service. Mr. Morrow found it difficult to finance the heavy capital expenditures necessary to meet this demand, although he did manage to convert both his exchanges to dial operation; the Parham exchange in 1966, and Sharbot Lake in 1970.

Morrow also purchased the Tichborne Telephone Co. Ltd. in 1966 with its 25 phones which had been switched at the Parham exchange. The owners of the Tichborne system did not wish to go to the expense of rebuilding their lines and installing dial phones to be compatible with the proposed dial exchange at Parham and considered this was a good time to get out of business.

To help finance the dial conversion of the exchanges and the expansion of the system, Mr. Morrow found it necessary to borrow a considerable amount of money and also to sell stock in the system. In 1971 he decided to dispose of his controlling interest completely, selling it to Harold Schmidt of Baden, who now directs the affairs of the system.

In 1973, the articles of incorporation were amended to change the name of the system once again to the North Frontenac Telephone Company Limited.

The North Norwich Municipal Telephone System provides telephone service to a large rural territory in Oxford and Brant Counties. It operates a dial exchange in the Village of Burgessville, which serves approximately 900 customers, and also owns an additional 500 phones switched on a service station basis by Bell Canada exchanges at Woodstock and Norwich. The municipal system was organized in 1923 to take over the existing Burgessville Telephone Co. Ltd.

The Burgessville company was founded by Dr. J. R. Service shortly after he moved to the village in 1904. At that time there was just one phone in Burgessville, a Bell long distance outlet. Dr. Service felt that a local system would be of great benefit to the community.

He began talking about it to the people of the village but not too many were interested at first. One man said that he had lived to a ripe old age and had done very well without a phone. Another said that there were so many things to know about building a telephone line that it would be an impossible venture for a group of local farmers to tackle.

"Why," he said, "if a kink was left in the wire, the call would not go through but come right back again".

However, a small group of enthusiasts offered to help the doctor get started. One man donated poles from his wood lot; another volunteered to cut and haul them to the village, and others helped dig post-holes and string wire.

The first line connected the doctor's office in Burgessville with the New Lawson cheese factory and William Kirkpatrick's general store in Holbrook. As soon as the line was in operation, the doctor was swamped with requests for service. Anyone who wished could buy his own phone and build his own spur-line to connect to the original circuit. More and more main lines soon had to be built and a central switch-

board was installed in Charles Burgess' house in Burgessville. Miss Rossie Burgess was the first operator and John Corless, the first lineman.

Within a short time, almost 200 phones were in operation and it was decided to incorporate a limited company. Everyone who had bought his own phone was given stock in the company and agreed to pay an annual rate of \$8 for maintenance of the system. Dr. Service was appointed secretary of the company. Other officers were Martin Emigh, John Corless, Henry Sneath, William Nutt and Alfred Wilson.

The business continued to grow, and in 1907 the former Temperance Hall was purchased for an office and exchange building.

A petition signed in 1923 by residents of the area requested the Township Council to establish a municipal telephone system. The North Norwich Municipal Telephone System was formed to take over the Burgessville company and its 660 customers. A debenture issue was sold to finance the \$25,000 price paid to the Burgessville Telephone Co. Ltd. The first commissioners were T. Walker, James Rettie and E. Burpee Palmer, who also was appointed secretary-treasurer of the system and served in that capacity until shortly before his death in 1959.

By 1952 the Burgessville exchange had outgrown the old building and a new modern office was erected and a common battery switchboard was installed.

By the early 1960's, Bell had converted the Woodstock and Norwich exchanges to dial operation. The North Norwich system had converted its service station phones which were switched at these exchanges. The Burgessville exchange, however, was still manually operated and the commissioners began to consider the possibility of converting it to dial also. The staff of the Ontario Telephone Service Commission made a survey of the system's plant and estimated that the job could be done for approximately \$200,000. The commissioners considered the



1930: "200" Type Handset

(Courtesy: Bell Canada)

estimate to be high and obtained approval for a debenture issue of \$135,000. However, by the time the Burgessville exchange was cut over to dial in 1967, and necessary improvements had been made to the service station lines at Woodstock and Norwich, a total of \$250,000 had to be raised by the issue of debentures.

In addition to assisting the system's staff to plan the modernization program, the Ontario Telephone Service Commission loaned one of its field engineers, Martin Prickaerts, to the system during the time plant reconstruction was being carried out. Mr. Prickaerts supervised the program and coordinated the work of the system's own staff with that of outside contractors who were hired to complete certain phases of the program.

Commissioners of the system at the time of the dial conversion were Harold Walker, A. E. Lampman and Walter Haight. Mrs. Marion Spencer, who was secretary-treasurer at that time, has since retired and been replaced by Mrs. Anne Schmor.

Oro Township is located between Barrie and Orillia on the west shore of Lake Simcoe. Oro is the Spanish word for gold; and the township was named after Rio del Oro, a district in northwest Africa known for its gold mines and also as a centre of the slave trade in the 18th century.

It was originally intended that the township, or a part of it, would be set aside as a settlement for negroes who had escaped from slavery in the United States. It was felt that the liberated slaves would feel more at home if the township was named after a place with which they were familiar.

The first general survey of Oro Township was made in 1820. By 1828 some 20 negro families had arrived and a total of 40 families eventually settled in the area.

The Oro Telephone Company was formed in 1909 by a group of interested citizens who built a line from Oro to Hawkstone to provide communications between the two villages. The following year the line was extended to Barrie, and in 1909 the company was incorporated and a small switchboard was installed at Shanty Bay. By 1913 the company had 180 customers and a larger switchboard was purchased. In 1920 the company moved the exchange to a house which it purchased at Oro Station.

Over the years, the demand for telephone service increased. By the early 1960's the system had more than 500 customers and served the whole rural area between Barrie and Orillia. A great many of the people who moved into the area were former urban residents who were used to modern dial service. They were most unhappy with the old-fashioned service provided by the Oro system. Multi-party lines were badly overloaded and long distance connections were inadequate.

A group of dissatisfied shareholders, most of them new to the area, attended the annual meeting in January 1962 and produced enough proxies to take over control of the company.

They elected a new board of directors from among their own number and passed a resolution empowering the directors to negotiate the sale of the company.

The old board of directors had been considering the sale of the system for several years and really approved the idea in principle, but they did not like the high-handed way in which the company had been taken over by the new group. When an offer to purchase the system had been received from the Bell Telephone Company, and a special meeting of shareholders was called in May to consider it, the old guard mustered their forces and voted it down.

A second offer was then obtained from Bell, which provided for a cash payment of \$45,000 for the system. Bell included a promise to convert the system to dial operation and establish toll-free calling between the Oro exchange and Orillia and Barrie. Two more meetings of shareholders were called in July. At both of them, the proposed sale failed to be approved by the necessary two-thirds of the votes cast.

The Ontario Telephone Service Commission finally entered the battle and held a public hearing in the Oro Township Hall on September 10. A great many complaints were heard and the Commission promised to take some action to bring better telephone service to the area.

At its regular meeting in October, the Commission issued an ultimatum to the company. The system must either be modernized within two years or sold to another company which would undertake to provide improved service.

In the meantime, the new directors resigned because they realized that there was a group of old-time shareholders who would always vote against any proposal they made. The old board of directors was re-elected and promptly reopened negotiations with the Bell Telephone Company. Bell repeated its offer of \$45,000, but added an additional \$12,000 to cover the cost of cable which the company had purchased but had not

installed. A final shareholders' meeting was held on December 4, 1962. This time the sale was approved almost unanimously.

After Bell took over the system in February of 1963, approximately 120 subscribers in the Shanty Bay area to the south were connected to the Barrie exchange. A few at the north end were transferred to the Orillia exchange. The balance of the system was cut over to dial operation on April 1, 1964.

The Township of Otonabee is located in Peterborough County immediately west of the City of Peterborough. The Otonabee Municipal Telephone System operates approximately 900 phones in the township from a modern dial exchange in the Village of Keene.

The system was established early in 1914 when a meeting of prospective subscribers elected three commissioners and instructed them to commence construction of lines at once. Mr. Francis Dagger of the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board attended the meeting and explained the procedures to be followed in organizing a municipal system.

The original commissioners were S. Armstrong, F. A. Eason and W. A. Anderson. The last became the dominant member of the commission and directed the affairs of the system until his resignation in 1951.

The commission set to work immediately. By the end of April 1914, arrangements had been made with the Bell Telephone Company for connection with the long distance network, the Otonabee Council had passed a by-law providing for financing, and a contract had been signed with W. G. Lytle for the construction of 60 miles of pole line and the installation of 150 phones. Miss B. McFarlane was hired to operate the exchange.

From this it would appear that the system was off to a good start but all the subscribers cannot have been completely satisfied. The minutes of the 1915 annual meeting record a motion to have the management of the system revert to the township council. After considerable discussion it was decided to refer the matter to the council for a ruling. At its next meeting, council reappointed the same commissioners so that the existing organization was continued.

By 1916 there were 241 subscribers, and pay stations had been installed at Mathers Corners and Jermyn. The system grew steadily until the 1930's when the depression put a stop

to further growth. It did not expand as much as might have been expected during the post World War II years. The policy of the commissioners was to keep rates down as much as possible and new business was not encouraged.

In 1951 a completely new commission was elected. The chairman was Dr. Wilson Ford, a local physician who also held a degree in electrical engineering and, therefore, had considerable technical knowledge. The other two commissioners were Hugh McFee and Dave McNeven, and Fred Gall was appointed secretary. A basic rebuilding program started that year, financed by a \$30,000 debenture issue. Most of the lines were reconstructed and an exchange building was purchased.

The next major program undertaken by the system was the conversion of the exchange to dial operation. This took place over a three year period ending on August 15, 1965, when the dial cutover took place. A debenture issue of \$135,000 funded the program, which included a new building to house the dial equipment, a garage-workshop, and the installation of underground cable to provide toll-free calling to Peterborough. The conversion program was supervised by John Down, who had joined the system as a lineman in 1955 and then became plant manager, in which capacity he still serves.

The present commission consists of John MacKelvie, chairman; Ronald Comrie and Archie Davidson, commissioners. David Coit is the secretary-treasurer. They realize that the system's plant and equipment is almost filled to capacity and that steps must soon be taken to solve the problem. The staff of the Ontario Telephone Service Commission recently assisted in a study of the feasibility of supplying flat-rate individual and two-party service throughout the whole exchange, but it was found that the capital costs of such a program would be prohibitive.

The system is now trying out electronic carrier equipment as a means of providing extra subscriber circuits without requiring expensive new cable. The commissioners

believe that the use of this equipment may provide a relatively inexpensive method of meeting the needs of new customers and providing improved service to present subscribers.

The Bell Telephone Company established toll stations and then local exchanges in the towns and larger villages of the Owen Sound-Chesley area very shortly after its incorporation in Canada. An exchange to serve the town residents was in operation in Chesley as early as 1888, and exchanges were installed in Owen Sound, Tara and Chatsworth at about the same time.

Bell refused, however, to extend lines into the rural areas around the towns despite a growing demand from farmers for this new convenience. It became evident that the rural people would have to build their own lines if they were going to obtain telephone service, but only two systems were established before the turn of the century. M. A. Halliday built the Chesley-Desboro Telephone System in Sullivan Township in 1894, and Dr. J. McAsh built a line in Derby Township in 1896. The McAsh line was connected to Bell's Tara exchange.

Further building of independent systems remained at a standstill for a number of years; but from 1909 on, almost 40 independent service station systems were established in the area. Service station systems own their own lines and phones but do not operate a switchboard, and their lines must be connected to the nearest exchange for switching service. These systems connected to Bell exchanges at Owen Sound, Chesley, Chatsworth or Tara. Some of them had only one line, but a few expanded over the years to the point where they were serving more than 100 customers. None, however, grew large enough to warrant establishing its own local exchange.

Following is a list of the systems whose lines were switched at the Owen Sound exchange:

Derby Telephone Co. Ltd.	131	telephones
Leith & Annan Telephone Co. Ltd.	130	"
Centre Road Telephone Co. Ltd.	26	"
Silcote Telephone Co. Ltd.	41	"
Woodford Telephone Co. Ltd.	37	"
Jackson Telephone Co. Ltd.	123	"

South Diagonal Telephone Co. Ltd.	101	telephones
Balaclava Telephone Co. Ltd.	30	"
Ben Allen Telephone Co. Ltd.	8	"
Bognor Telephone Co. Ltd.	20	"
Glen Eden Telephone Co. Ltd.	11	"
Fifth Line Telephone Co. Ltd.	18	"
Pleasant View Telephone Co. Ltd.	9	"
Sydenham Union Telephone Co. Ltd. (earlier known as the Union Tel. Club)	35	"
Maple Leaf Telephone Co. Ltd.	5	"
Hoath Head & Grey Telephone Co. Ltd.	41	"

Most of the above systems sold out to Bell or relinquished their territories to Bell prior to the conversion of the Owen Sound exchange to dial in 1959. They felt that the expense of rebuilding their lines to dial standards would not be warranted. The last four, however, did rebuild their lines and install dial phones, and the Pleasant View and Sydenham Union systems remained in business until 1965. The Maple Leaf and Hoath Head and Grey systems continued until 1968 when they too invited Bell Canada to take over.

Fifteen systems were connected to the Bell exchange at Chesley. The first of these was the Chesley-Desboro Telephone System, the name of which was changed to the Mooresburg-Desboro Telephone System in 1914, and again in 1924 to the Desboro-Mooresburg Telephone Co. Ltd., when it was incorporated. It was serving 29 customers when it sold the major portion of its plant in 1958 to the neighbouring Victory Telephone Co. Ltd.

The Victory Telephone Co. Ltd. was established in 1919, and in 1920 took over the Bond Telephone Association with 16 phones, the Scone Telephone System with eight phones and the Peabody Telephone Association with 17 phones. The Victory system served almost one hundred customers when it sold to the Bell Telephone Company in 1963.

Another Chesley service station system was the Dobbinton Telephone Co. Ltd., which was incorporated in 1950 to take over the area served by the Progressive Telephone Co.



1937: "300" Type Combination Handset

(Courtesy: Bell Canada)

Ltd., which surrendered its charter that year. Progressive had been formed in 1923 from the merger of the Elderslie-Salem Telephone Association (20 phones); the North Elderslie Telephone Association (36 phones); and the Orr Steinhoff Telephone Association (24 phones).

The other smaller systems which operated out of the Chesley exchange were:

Fourteenth of Brant Telephone Co. Ltd.	14	telephones
Gillies Hill Telephone Co. Ltd.	18	"
Marmion Telephone Co. Ltd.	29	"
North Brant Telephone Co. Ltd.	24	"
South Elderslie Telephone Co. Ltd.	33	"
Sullivan & Bentinck Telephone Co. Ltd.	20	"
Sullivan & Elderslie Telephone Co. Ltd.	16	"
Town Line of Brant & Elderslie Telephone Co. Ltd.	13	"
Vesta Telephone Co. Ltd.	19	"

All of the Chesley service station systems were taken over by the Bell Telephone Company in 1963 in order that they might be rebuilt before the conversion of the Chesley exchange to dial in 1965.

Bell's exchanges at Chatsworth and Tara were also converted to dial in 1965 and the service station systems connected to them were all taken over by Bell prior to the conversions.

Systems switched at Chatsworth were:

Desboro Telephone Co. Ltd.	180	telephones
Chatsworth Rural Telephone Co. Ltd.	56	"
Keward Rural Telephone Co. Ltd.	20	"
Spey River Telephone Co. Ltd.	14	"
Sunny Valley Telephone Co. Ltd.	17	"

Systems switched at Tara were:

Arran Municipal Telephone System	11	telephones
Arran No. 1 Telephone Co. Ltd.	69	"
Grimston Telephone Co. Ltd.	5	"
Tara-Keady Telephone Co. Ltd.	33	"
(earlier known as the McAsh Tel. System)		

The small service station systems which served the rural people of this area for a period of some 50 years are typical of similar systems which served in other parts of the province. In almost all cases, they were started by a progressive farmer or small group of farmers to fill a demand which the larger systems were not prepared to meet. When they were no longer needed, they bowed out of the picture.

The Oxford Telephone Co. Ltd. was incorporated in January of 1947 to amalgamate and take over the operations of two fairly large rural systems in the area northeast of the City of Woodstock. At the time of the merger, the Princeton and Drumbo Telephone Co. Ltd. was operating 600 phones from a single exchange at Princeton, and the Innerkip Rural Telephone Co. Ltd. was operating 650 phones from its exchange at Innerkip. The latter company also owned a number of service station phones on the Bell Telephone Company's Woodstock exchange as a result of taking over the Spring Creek Telephone Co. Ltd. a few years earlier.

Both companies had been founded around 1906. The names of the men who organized them and made up the original boards of directors were as follows:

	<u>Princeton & Drumbo</u>	<u>Innerkip</u>
President	Fred J. Daniel	Dr. J. G. Hosack
Vice-President	Walter Murray	James Montgomery
Secretary-Treasurer	Thomas Starr	George Dobson
Directors	J. D. Cowan	E. M. Johnson
	George Law	T. M. Whiteside
	R. Hewitt	Dr. Hotson
	Thomas Elms	John Bickell
	S. M. Harley	J. W. Cowling
	Walter Kipp	
	Winfield S. Wood	

Their first reports to the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board in 1910 showed that each company was operating more than 300 phones at that time and both expanded at about the same rate down through the years. During the depression years, they lost telephone subscribers and in the war years were seriously affected by government restrictions and rationing of wire and other supplies. Enlistment of many of their maintenance men in the armed services made it sensible for the two companies to work closely together. This cooperation continued after the war.

Dr. James A. Vance, a well known engineer from Woodstock, who later became chairman of the Water Resources Commission of Ontario, had been elected to the board of directors of the Princeton and Drumbo Telephone Company in 1934 and to the board of directors of the Innerkip company in 1942. As secretary-treasurer of both companies he realized that economies in operation and easier future planning would result if they could be merged into one larger system. The two boards of directors discussed the matter at several joint meetings. In November of 1946 they obtained the approval of their shareholders for the formation of the Oxford Telephone Co. Ltd.

The mechanics of the merger were quite simple, since the two companies each had approximately the same number of subscribers, operated in adjacent areas, and each had about the same plant value and service potential. Both companies were authorized to issue 2,000 shares of stock with a par value of \$10. They were, therefore, amalgamated on a share for share basis with the new company having an authorized capital of 4,000 shares of \$10 par value.

In order that the whole area would be well represented on the board of directors, the number was increased to nine. All members of the two previous five-man boards (Dr. Vance had served on both) were elected to the board of the new company. Six of these served for more than 30 years on the board of the Oxford Telephone Co. Ltd. and its predecessors. They were Geo. H. Laird, Harvey Wood, Mrs. Mae O. Kipp, Jas. A. Vance, Charles Sippel and Zella Hotson.

Once the merger was finalized, the company began to plan a modernization program. Ed. Downs of the Northern Electric Company became closely associated with the company at this time, later becoming one of the directors. With his help and that of other experienced telephone people, a plan was prepared for the development and reconstruction of the whole system.

It was decided that the best way to serve the area would be by the installation of unattended dial offices in communities where there was a concentration of population, with the dial offices controlled from an operator central office. The first step in implementing the plan was taken in 1948, when an unattended dial exchange was installed at Drumbo. This was followed by similar installations at Bright in 1951, at Hickson in 1954 and at Eastwood in 1956. The two larger exchanges at Princeton and Innerkip were then converted to dial in 1959 and 1962 respectively.

During this same period, the Oxford company purchased two small service station systems which were switched by the Bell Telephone Company's exchange in Woodstock. They were the Penhurst Telephone Co. Ltd. with 10 phones and the Ingleside Telephone Co. Ltd. with 24 phones. Their customers were added to the growing number of Oxford subscribers located close to Woodstock whose phones were also operated on a service station basis.

The company prospered during the 1950's and 60's. By 1970, it was operating almost 3,000 phones, more than twice the number operated at the time of the merger. Nevertheless, when Bell Canada made an attractive offer to the shareholders for a controlling interest in the stock, almost all of the outstanding shares were turned in. This was understandable in view of the price of \$600 offered by Bell for each share of \$10 par value. Since the stock was widely held throughout the area, and many of the owners felt that it only had a nominal value, there must have been a great scramble through bureau drawers and old trunks by people trying to find their certificates. Find them they did, however, because the company was able to locate all but three of the shareholders and these owned a total of only seven shares.

Bell Canada acquired control of the company on April 30, 1970, but continued to operate it under the same name and with substantially the same staff until July 1, 1971,



1952: "500" Type Combination Handset

(Courtesy: Bell Canada)

when it was absorbed into the Bell system. The Oxford Telephone Co. Ltd. charter was surrendered and the company went out of existence later the same year.

The People's Telephone Co. of Forest Ltd. operates approximately 3,000 telephones from dial exchanges in the Villages of Forest, Aberarder and Arkona in Lambton County.

The first phones in Forest were installed by the Bell Telephone Company in 1891. A small switchboard was located in the rear of Ralph Scott's drugstore on King Street, to serve 34 customers in the village.

The People's Telephone Co. of Forest Ltd. was incorporated in 1906. At the first shareholders' meeting, the following directors were appointed:

President:	Finlay Chalk
Vice-President:	J. W. Bell
Secretary:	W. J. Owens
Treasurer:	J. N. Gordon
Directors:	Reg. Scott)
	Wm. Lawrie) for the Village of Forest
	John Bell)
	Edwin Gustin) for the Township of
	John Emerson) Bosanquet
	John Jones) for the Township of
	Arthur Gammon) Plymton
	Alonza Mathews) for the Township of
	James Brandon) Warwick

Subscribers were required to purchase a share of stock in the company and to pay the cost of connecting their telephone to the nearest main line.

Within two years, the company had 120 telephones in operation and this number had increased to 450 by 1915 when it purchased all Bell plant in the Forest area. The connecting agreement with the Bell Telephone Company was signed by Samuel Bailey, president, and G. E. McIntosh, Secretary.

The system grew slowly but steadily. During World War II, it undertook the responsibility of supplying telephone service to Camp Ipperwash where as many as 3,000 men were in training. A separate exchange was installed at the camp which

remained in service until 1959.

As well as normal growth within the system, the company acquired additional territory and approximately 200 more phones when it bought the Arkona exchange from Parkhill Arkona Telephones Ltd. and took over its operation on January 1, 1957.

Parkhill Arkona Telephones Ltd. was incorporated in 1921 by M. H. Chamberlain of Arkona to purchase the Arkona Telephone System and the Parkhill Rural Telephone Co. Ltd. The latter system had been established in 1909 and had 200 customers at the time of the sale. The Arkona system was started in 1907 by E. D. Morningstar of Arkona. Mr. Morningstar operated for several years as the Arkona, Warwick and Adelaide Long Distance Telephone Sytem and then under the name of Morningstar Telephone System. The system was sold by his estate to Walter Percy of Arkona in 1921. Mr. Percy operated for only a few months as the Arkona Telephone System before he sold to Parkhill Arkona Telephones Ltd. in 1922. The Arkona system had 260 phones at the time of the sale.

In 1956 Parkhill Arkona Telephones Ltd. reported ownership of 350 phones. Of these, approximately 200 were connected to its own exchange at Arkona, which was sold to the People's Telephone Co. of Forest Ltd. The remainder were connected to exchanges at Parkhill and Sylvan and were taken over by the Bell Telephone Company later in 1957.

Following purchase of the Arkona exchange, the People's Telephone Company turned its attention to modernization of the whole system. The first step was taken when a new dial exchange was installed at Aberarder to serve approximately 300 customers in that area. The following year the Arkona exchange was cut over to dial.

In 1961, the system suffered heavy losses from a disastrous ice storm which cut off service to three quarters of the subscribers. It was estimated that the cost of the storm to the company was nearly \$70,000.



Guy Turner
Secretary-treasurer
People's Telephone Co. of Forest Ltd.
(Courtesy: Canadian Telephone Journal)

In the early 1960's, the company started plans to convert the main exchange at Forest to dial. A new building was erected to house the business office and exchange equipment. Cutover of the Forest exchange took place on May 17, 1964, completing the long term plan of the company to have all its customers using automatic dial phones.

By 1967 the number of phones on the system had increased to the point where additional equipment had to be added at all three exchanges. During the same year, direct distance dialling equipment was installed.

A number of the employees and directors have long records of service to the company and the independent telephone industry.

Mr. C. E. Janes was a director for 32 years. As Member of the Provincial Parliament, he introduced the legislation which amended The Telephone Act to provide for the establishment of the Ontario Telephone Authority.

Guy Turner was secretary-treasurer of the company for 30 years and was secretary of the Canadian Independent Telephone Association from 1954 to 1963.

Alex Sutherland, manager of the company since 1959, has had more than 50 years' service. He was selected as "Telephone Man of the Year" by the CITA at its convention in 1972. His son, Roger, is secretary-treasurer and assistant manager of the company and served as secretary of the CITA during the years 1968 to 1973.

Fred Perry, Sr., was one of the pioneers of the telephone industry in the Napanee area. By the time of his death in 1929, he had built up a system of almost 800 phones, some of which were switched at Bell exchanges at Deseronto and Napanee and the rest at his own exchanges at Newburgh and Adolphustown and at Stella on Amherst Island.

He had originally farmed in the area and in the early days of the century operated a wholesale feed and grain business in Napanee. He built several telephone lines in the rural area adjacent to town and in 1917 reported ownership of 48 phones to the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board.

In 1920, Mr. Perry bought two small service station systems whose phones, like his own, were switched by the Bell exchange at Napanee. They were the Brookdale Rural Telephone System with 15 phones and the Henderson and Milling Telephone System (formerly the Cadman and Milling Telephone System) with 55 phones. John Milling of Napanee was listed as secretary of both companies.

In neighbouring Adolphustown, an exchange which had been established by the Grand Trunk Railway in 1910, was sold to the Bell Telephone Company in 1913. Fred Perry bought it from Bell in 1923, together with its 125 phones.

He expanded his system very significantly in 1926 when he took over systems in the Newburgh area and on Amherst Island.

Service in the Newburgh area had been supplied by a Bell exchange in the village with approximately 75 phones, and two large service station systems; the Selby Telephone Co. Ltd. with 114 phones and the Camden Independent Telephone Co. Ltd. with 220 phones. Mr. Perry bought the three systems and copy of an agreement on file indicates that the price of the Camden system was \$6,000 payable in two equal annual installments.

The Amherst Island Municipal Telephone System consisted of a line running from the Village of Emerald to the Village of Stella, with 14 phones which were switched at Bell's Bath exchange on the mainland. Many more people on the Island wanted service and a group approached Mr. Perry with a proposition whereby they would sell him the system for a very nominal sum and also lend him sufficient money to repair and expand it. At this particular time, the Great Northwestern Telegraph Company had some 200 miles of surplus line which Mr. Perry was able to buy cheaply. He dismantled this line, carted the poles and wire to Millhaven and rafted them across to the island. He was able to use this material to build up the system and by the end of the year had installed over 100 new phones and had established his own exchange in the Village of Stella.

Unfortunately, following Mr. Perry's death in 1929, the estate was tied up in litigation for more than 10 years. The telephone system was operated by an administrator appointed by the court and this, together with the depression of the 1930's, resulted in maintenance being neglected and the system becoming run-down. By the time the estate was finally settled after Mrs. Perry's death in 1942, only 470 phones remained. In those days, a system of this size would still have been a viable operation but, instead of leaving it as a unit, it was split among four of the Perry children.

Hugh Perry got the Amherst Island system with 73 phones, Fred Jr. got the Napanee and Deseronto area (102 phones), Josephine got the Adolphustown portion (68 phones) and Josephine and Lucinda together were left the Newburgh section (228 phones).

Hugh permitted his sytem on Amherst Island to become further run-down. Service had so deteriorated that by 1951, township officials decided that something had to be done. They expropriated his lines and exchange and re-organized the municipal system. The Amherst Island Municipal Telephone System operated from then until 1966, when it was sold to the Bell Telephone Company for \$10,000.

Fred Jr. did a better job with his share of the system in the Napanee and Deseronto area. In 1955, he acquired the Herrington Telephone System with 34 phones for one dollar. Fred had assisted Tom Herrington for some years by looking after maintenance of the little system without charge and it had been agreed that it should be given to him on Herrington's death. In 1958, Fred also bought the Palace Road Telephone Co. Ltd. (55 phones), another service station system which was switched at Napanee.

When Bell's exchanges at Napanee and Deseronto were converted to dial in 1962, Fred Jr. brought his system up to dial standards and had installed dial phones for all his customers. In 1966, he sold to the Bell Telephone Company for \$90,000, by which time he had built the system up to almost 600 phones.

Lucinda and Josephine (and the latter's husband, Bud Ballantyne) continued to operate their portions of the old Perry system at Newburgh and Adolphustown until 1960 when they merged their systems with the Redden Telephone System to form the Eastern Community Telephone Co. Ltd. (later taken over by Community Telephone Co. of Ontario Ltd.). Lucinda sold her share for cash but Josephine took shares in the Community company. She and her husband were employed as local managers until 1962 when she sold her shares back to the company and severed all connection with it.

It is impossible, of course, to know what might have happened had the Perry system been left as a single unit rather than being divided among the heirs, but it is certainly true that it would have had a better chance to survive as a successful independent if it had not been split.

The Port Hope Telephone Co. Ltd. may be said to have started before the turn of the century since its founder, G. W. Jones of Newtonville, was preparing to build a local system in 1899. He had purchased the necessary wire and had the poles cut and ready to be installed when the Bell Telephone Company bought him out. He agreed not to engage in the telephone business again.

Bell, however, did nothing to develop the rural territory where there was quite a demand for service and in 1905 Mr. Jones decided to try the business again, this time in his brother's name. He started with a single wire line, four miles long, from Newtonville to W. H. Burley's store at Newtonville Station. The little system was extended, as other customers wanted phones on the line, and it soon became known as the Clarke-Hope Telephone Line.

By 1908, the system covered the southern portions of Clarke and Hope Townships and lines had been extended into the Village of Newcastle and the Town of Port Hope. It was decided that the time had come to incorporate and the Port Hope Telephone Company Limited was formed to take over. Mr. Jones received 557 shares of \$10 par common stock of the new company for his interest in the old system, and Mr. Burley received 20 shares.

The company continued to expand but might have done even better except for the fact that for years the Bell Telephone Company consistently refused to allow it outside connection with the toll network. Its subscribers in Newcastle had to go to the local Bell office if they wanted to make a long distance call. A unique arrangement existed in Port Hope whereby the local funeral directors, A. W. George and Son, who had both a Bell and a Port Hope phone, would relay messages for company customers to the Bell long distance operator.

Finally in 1920, after prolonged negotiations, an agreement was reached which provided the company with long

distance connections at Bowmanville and Port Hope and two lines each way were erected. When the company was sold in 1968, the number of toll lines to these points had increased to 84.

At the time the connecting agreement was made, another agreement with Bell was completed whereby the Port Hope Telephone Co. Ltd. (despite its name) was to withdraw completely from the Town of Port Hope, but was to be permitted to buy the Bell exchange at Newcastle. This move eliminated the "overlap" situation which had existed for many years and, from then on, Newcastle and its surrounding area were served exclusively by the Port Hope system and the Town of Port Hope was served exclusively by Bell. The year after he purchased the Newcastle exchange, Mr. Jones closed it down and rearranged the outside plant so that all phones on the system could be switched at Newtonville.

When G. W. Jones died in 1929, his son Melville, who had been working for a bank in Western Canada, returned to help his mother run the system. She had always taken an interest in its operation and took an active part in its management until it was sold, at which time she was 38 years of age.

Following the war, the number of phones operated by the system increased immensely and it was apparent that the exchange facilities at Newtonville would soon be unable to handle the traffic. Melville commenced a program of dial conversion which saw the first independent company automatic exchange in Eastern Ontario installed at Newcastle in 1951, and another at Welcome in 1955. The latter exchange was built to serve the rural area just outside the Town of Port Hope which still formed a part of the company's territory and which was rapidly developing into a suburb of the town.

One might have suspected that financing the large capital expenditures necessary for the dial conversion would present quite a problem to an organization of this size, but the credit reputation of the company was such that Mr. Jones

was able to borrow the money from friends and neighbours on a demand note basis. Once the program got underway with the first conversion at Newcastle, it was no longer necessary for him to seek loans because prospective investors came to him.

Further expansion of the system came through natural growth, through purchase of the Beatty Telephone System at Garden Hill with its 250 phones in 1956, and with purchase of a section of the South Monaghan Municipal Telephone System in the Bewdley area with some 35 phones in 1962.

The dial conversion program continued with the installation of automatic equipment at the main exchange at Newtonville in 1964 and was completed when the Garden Hill exchange was converted in 1967.

In 1968, Mr. Jones was faced with the necessity of making an important decision. Bell Canada indicated a serious interest in buying the system and he was approaching retirement age. Should he sell or not? He still enjoyed his work and wondered what he would do with all his spare time if he no longer had a telephone company to manage. However, the offer received was so tempting he could not turn it down. The system was sold for \$1,330,000 and taken over by Bell on August 1, 1968.

It is interesting to note that when the company was sold, its outstanding indebtedness was approximately \$300,000 leaving a nice round million dollars to be distributed to the shareholders. It is also noteworthy that the Port Hope Telephone Co. Ltd. was one of the few independent systems which recognized the contribution made by its employees to the success of the company. When its affairs were wound up, all long-term employees received a substantial honorarium based on years of service.

Mr. G. W. Jones was one of the founding members of the Canadian Independent Telephone Association, and Melville served as treasurer of that organization for many years and as its president in 1937-38.



1959: Call Director
(Courtesy: Bell Canada)

The Southern Ontario Telephone Co. Ltd. was incorporated in 1930 to take over and amalgamate three fairly large independent systems operating in Norfolk, Haldimand and adjacent counties. The companies merged were the Norfolk County Telephone Co. Ltd., the Erie Telephone Co. Ltd., and the South Norfolk Telephone Co. Ltd. All three companies had been established prior to 1910 and had become very successful systems, providing good service in a wide area of Southwestern Ontario.

The man chiefly responsible for the success of the merger was J. R. Forbes, long-time manager of the Norfolk County system, and a man well known in the independent industry through his activities with the Canadian Independent Telephone Association. He was chairman of the Toll Compensation Committee of the CITA for many years, and was credited with considerable success in negotiating more favourable traffic agreements with the Bell Telephone Company on behalf of the independent telephone industry. Mr. Forbes was appointed manager for the new combined system.

Another man who supported the merger was T. D. Duncombe of Waterford, who had been secretary of the Norfolk County system since its establishment and who was also secretary of the other two systems at the time of the merger. He became secretary of the new system. Dr. W. L. Alway of Waterford, who owned blocks of stock in all three systems, also sponsored the amalgamation and was elected vice-president of the new company.

The Norfolk County company had been incorporated in 1906 to provide telephone service in the Village of Vanessa and the Town of Waterford. The original shareholders were E. X. Barber, Henry Bartholomew, J. H. McIlraith, S. L. Squire, P. George Pearce, C. H. Glover and F. L. Culver. By 1910 the company was operating its own exchanges at Waterford, Delhi, Port Dover, Teeterville and Scotland, with a total of over 1,000 phones. This number had doubled by the time it was taken over by the Southern Ontario Telephone Co. Ltd.

Its growth took place almost entirely within the

system. The only acquisitions of other systems over the years were the purchases of a couple of small service station systems; the Donald Fisher Telephone Line in 1913, and the Barrett Telephone Association, formerly the Meek Private Line, in 1921.

The Norfolk County Telephone Co. Ltd. bought a block of stock in the South Norfolk Telephone Co. Ltd. in 1920, and in 1926 bought 700 shares in the Erie Telephone Co. Ltd. from Dr. W. R. Alway of Waterford.

The history of the Erie Telephone Company goes back to 1904, when W. H. Davidson built a private line in Nanticoke. This line was taken over by A. B. Hoover about 1910 and was known as the A. B. Hoover Telephone Company until sold to the Erie system in 1918.

It was also in 1904 that A. E. Hoover, a farmer and apple shipper in Selkirk, and Geo. E. Dasher, proprietor of a lumber business in Fisherville, were the prime movers in founding the Erie Telephone Co. Ltd. which received its charter in 1906. When building the system, they enlisted the help of Alpheus Hoover of Green River, who had considerable experience in organizing and constructing telephone systems. Three different Hoovers, therefore, had a hand in the establishment of the Erie system.

The Erie Telephone Co. Ltd. also expanded rapidly and by 1910 it too reported operating more than 1,000 phones from exchanges at Cayuga, Hagersville, Jarvis, Fisherville and Selkirk. It owned 1,700 phones at the time of the merger in 1930.

The third system in the amalgamation, the South Norfolk Telephone Co. Ltd., was incorporated in 1920 to take over and rebuild the Port Rowan and Rural Telephone Co. Ltd. from Dr. W. L. Alway of Waterford, who had bought the assets of that company earlier in the year. The Port Rowan system had been founded in 1910, and in 1913 had taken over the St. Williams and Forestville Telephone Co. Ltd. The combined

systems had an exchange at Port Rowan with 200 phones when taken over by South Norfolk in 1920, and South Norfolk had about 275 phones when it merged with the Erie and Norfolk County systems in 1930.

The Southern Ontario telephone system started in business with over 4,000 phones. This was reduced to approximately 3,300 during the depression; but the number was back up to 5,000 by the end of the war, and exceeded 7,500 when the company was taken over by the Bell Telephone Company in 1950.

The growth of the company occurred, for the most part, within its own territory, although it did buy out the neighbouring Norfolk and Tillsonburg Telephone Co. Ltd. in 1947. The latter company operated an exchange at Glen Myer with 325 phones. It also purchased four small service station systems in 1937:

Houghton and South Walsingham
 Telephone Association Ltd. (36 phones)
 Walsingham Centre and Port Rowan
 Telephone Co. Ltd. (16 phones)
 Windham Telephone Co. Ltd. (14 phones)
 South Walsingham Telephone Co. Ltd. (36 phones)

The South Walsingham Telephone Co. Ltd. was incorporated in 1918 to take over the Cultus and Walsingham Telephone Line, and in 1925 it took over the Carholme and Walsingham Telephone Company.

The Bell Telephone Company acquired a controlling interest in the Southern Ontario Telephone Co. Ltd. in 1936. Three Bell representatives were elected to the Board of Directors but the company continued to operate as an independent until 1950 when it was absorbed into the Bell system. Following this, Morley Kinnee, formerly manager of the Woodbridge and Vaughan Telephone Co. Ltd. and for many years a member of the Independent Company Relations Group at Bell, took over as secretary-treasurer and wound up the affairs of the company.



1969: "Contempra" Touch Tone Phone
(Courtesy: Bell Canada)

The Southwald and Dunwich Telephone Company was formed in 1906 and incorporated as the Southwald and Dunwich Telephone Association Limited in 1913. It served a rural area in Elgin County, east of St. Thomas.

The system's first telephone line was constructed from Bert Clay's fishing business in Port Talbot to J. O. Lumley's general store in Iona. There was a lack of money at the start and the company could not afford proper poles. The line was strung on fence posts and trees, but every farmer along the line subscribed for a phone and each was responsible for the maintenance of the portion of line that went through his property.

W. R. Pollard was the first president of the company and, except for one year, served in that capacity during the life of the system. The first full time operators were Mrs. Euphemia McLean and her daughter, Lillian. Mrs. Frank Silcox, a daughter of J. O. Lumley, was another of the early operators and served with the company for more than 25 years. She recalls that when the company first started, and there were only two lines, her father had two phones in his store, with each connected to one of the lines. When a party on one line wanted to speak to a party on the other, he called the store and a wire lead was connected between the two phones. This arrangement was succeeded by a small plug box, and finally a proper switchboard was installed.

Another long term employee of the company, James Milton, was hired as a lineman when the system was being built. He left the company in 1914 to take up farming but returned in 1933 as head lineman. In 1948, when he was 65 years of age, the company felt that he was too old to climb poles and asked him to resign; but he refused claiming that he was still quite capable of doing the job. He proved to be right because when the company fired him, he immediately got a job as lineman with the neighbouring Dunwich and Dutton Telephone Co. Ltd. where he continued to climb poles for another 16 years until the company

went out of business. Even then, at the age of 81 he was engaged by the contractors who were removing the outside plant of the old system to assist with its demolition.

The Southwald and Dunwich system grew rapidly in its early years and, in its first report submitted to the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board in 1910, it reported 200 phones. By the early 1920's the system was operating exchanges at Iona and Shedden and the number of customers had increased to more than 300.

In 1947, the Iona exchange was closed and switching for the whole system was done from Shedden. In 1953, the company bought and renovated a former bank building in Shedden and moved its exchange and business office there. The second floor of the new office was remodelled as a small apartment for Mrs. T. J. McCardell, the chief operator at the time.

The company continued to prosper, but like other small systems was eventually faced with the problem of whether to sell out or raise a large amount of capital to convert to dial. The former choice was considered more feasible. Early in 1964, the shareholders approved the sale of the system to the Bell Telephone Company for \$85,000. At that time the company was operating 440 phones.

The last board of directors included W. R. Pollard, president; Geo. Silcox, vice-president and directors, Clarence Orchard, Lee Rycroft, Ian McLellan and William McMullen. Duncan C. Turner was the secretary-manager of the company during the six years prior to its sale.

Sparrow Lake is located in the district of Muskoka, a few miles south of the Town of Gravenhurst.

The Sparrow Lake Private Telephone Line, which was also known in its early days as the Kahshe-Sparrow Lake Telephone System, was one of the hundreds of very small service station systems which once provided telephone service in their own little areas filling a need which larger systems were not prepared to satisfy.

Many consisted of just one rural line connected to the nearest Bell exchange for switching service and access to the long distance network. In almost all cases, they were built originally for the convenience of one man or small group in a rural area who did not wish to wait until one of the larger companies was prepared to extend its lines to serve them. They usually started as a private line, with just one or two phones, but the number of phones would increase as friends and neighbours would ask to be "put on the line".

The Sparrow Lake system was built in 1908 by J. W. Clipsham who, with his family, operated a summer resort on the lake called "Uneeda Rest". Three phones were installed, one at the resort, one at the home of Mr. Clipsham's mother-in-law, and one at the lumber mill on nearby Kahshe Lake. The three subscribers were joint owners of the system, each having contributed a third of the cost of building lines out to Highway 11, where they connected with the Bell pole line to the Severn Bridge exchange.

As the years went by, others along the way were taken on as subscribers but there were never more than 12 phones on the line at any one time. By 1915, the lumber mill at Kahshe Lake had closed down and Mr. Clipsham eventually owned the system.

In 1929, Mr. Clipsham's son, Esmond, and daughter, Orma, took over the summer hotel and also the little telephone

system, which Esmond maintained and managed until it was taken over by the Bell Telephone Company in 1959 when the Severn Bridge exchange was converted to dial.

Esmond Clipsham claims a unique distinction among telephone men. He helped his father build the original pole line in 1908, and dismantled it himself 50 years later. The system was built during a period of heavy spring rains and his father had trouble with water collecting in the post-holes he had dug. Young Esmond, then a boy of seven, was small enough that he could be lowered into a hole to bail out the water with a dipper before a pole was set.

Mr. Clipsham did any maintenance required on the line, usually without any help. When he had to replace a large pole, a difficult job for one man, he would dig the hole a few feet from the old pole and use the old one as a "gin" pole. This meant that he attached a block and tackle near the top of the old pole and was able to pull the new pole up and over the hole by this means.

After the Bell Telephone Company had rebuilt the system in 1959, Mr. Clipsham had the responsibility of taking down the old lines. He devised his own reels, mounted them on his tractor and rolled up the wire for salvage.

A one-man maintenance crew was typical of many small Ontario companies like the Sparrow Lake Private Telephone Line. The maintenance man, usually untrained, worked for the system on a part-time basis only; but he was on call when a "trouble" appeared on the line, and was expected to turn out in any kind of weather to keep communications going in the area served by his system.

The Stroud Telephone Co. Ltd. served a rural area a few miles south of Barrie in Simcoe County.

It was incorporated on November 27, 1911, but was really started a year earlier when a meeting of local residents was called to discuss building a telephone system in the area. They decided to go ahead, and during that winter and the following summer many hours of volunteer labour were donated by men who cut poles, dug post-holes and erected lines so that the company would have as many telephones installed as possible when it started operations.

The first president of the company was R. A. Sutherland who served in that capacity for eight years until 1919 and also between 1934 and 1949. His son, Fraser, was president when the system was taken over by the Bell Telephone Company in 1964. The first secretary was Dr. L. J. Simpson, who later became Minister of Education in the Ontario Government. He was succeeded by W. Lennox Black, who served as secretary from 1912 to 1938 and from 1950 to 1955, for a total of more than 30 years.

Fred Mathers, the local blacksmith, took on the contract to operate the first switchboard, which was originally located in Thomas Sproule's store, but later moved to Mr. Mathers' home. Mr. Mathers' daughters did the actual operating until 1915, when William Patterson and his daughters became the operators. Many different people were employed as operators over the years and, in due course, the company purchased a house in Stroud where the switchboard was located from then on. During its 53 years in business, the company employed only three linemen; Fred Ness from 1911 to 1936, Frank Graham from 1936 to 1940 and Oscar Bowman from 1940 to 1964.

In 1954 the Stroud Telephone Co. Ltd. took over the Innisfil Telephone Co. Ltd. which owned approximately 150 phones connected on a service station basis with the Bell exchange at Lefroy. The merger was accomplished by issuing a block of Stroud capital stock to the Innisfil shareholders, who then



Fraser Sutherland and Mrs. Hannah Pritchard of the Stroud Telephone Co. Ltd. watching Morley Kinnee of the Bell Telephone Company sign an agreement for purchase of the system.

became shareholders of the expanded Stroud Telephone Co. Ltd.

The company had over 850 customers by 1960 but the demands of a growing community for more modern service prompted the directors to consider the sale of the system to the Bell Telephone Company. Their decision was speeded up by an ice storm that year which leveled many of the circuits in the southern portion of the system, which had comprised the former Innisfil Telephone Company. Rather than go to the expense of rebuilding the area, with its 156 service stations on Lefroy, it was sold to Bell. The following year, 90 phones in the Painswick area were also sold to Bell and in 1964, coincident with the construction of a larger exchange in Barrie, the balance of the system was taken over. Bell installed automatic dial exchanges in Stroud and Lefroy and established toll-free service between the two exchanges and the City of Barrie.

The Thunder Bay Telephone System is the largest independent in Ontario, with some 70,000 phones on seven exchanges. A public utility, it operates as one of the departments of the city administration and provides modern dial service to residents of Thunder Bay and surrounding rural areas.

The Thunder Bay system, as currently organized, came into being on January 1, 1970, when the twin cities of Port Arthur and Fort William were amalgamated. Prior to that time, each had operated its own system with separate staffs. The Port Arthur Municipal Telephone System was controlled by the Public Utilities Commission of that city and the Fort William Municipal Telephone System was controlled by the City Council.

The history of telephony in the area goes back to 1877, just one year after Alexander Graham Bell received his patent. In June of that year, Neil McDougall and a Mr. Cooke obtained two of Dr. Bell's telephones and put them into experimental use between Prince Arthur's Landing (later Port Arthur) and the Town Plot, six miles away.

In 1884, Port Arthur By-Law Number 23 was passed by council granting the Port Arthur Telephone Company the right to install a telephone system and the Township of Shuniah granted similar rights to J. L. Meikle. At about the same time, the Bell Telephone Company established exchanges in both Port Arthur and Fort William, claiming that it had the sole rights to provide telephone service anywhere in Canada.

By 1900 the Port Arthur Telephone Company appears to have passed out of existence, leaving the field to Bell; but in 1902 the two town administrations decided to enter the municipal telephone field because they considered Bell's rates too high. A municipally owned manual switchboard was installed in each town and on October 18, 1902, the first call was made between the mayors of the two communities.

It was not all clear sailing for the two new systems. An article in the August 1909 issue of the "Telephone Gazette", published by the Bell Telephone Company, pointed out that the Fort William system was operating at a continuing deficit which had to be covered by the taxpayers. The article went on to say that:

"This is not only a vindication of the claim made by this company's representative at the inauguration of the system - that the rates proposed by the municipality were not sufficient - but is a justification of the rates formerly charged by the Bell company."

However during the same year, Bell sold its local service facilities to the two towns, but reserved the right to operate toll lines in the area. From then on, local service was completely owned and operated by the towns with Bell providing the long distance service.

A few smaller systems operated in the Thunder Bay area at one time or another, but were all taken over by either Fort William or Port Arthur prior to the amalgamation.

The Fort William system took over the Hymers Telephone System with five phones in 1932 and the O'Connor Municipal Telephone System with seven phones in 1936. The Slate River Municipal Telephone System (earlier known as the Paipoonge Municipal Telephone System) operated 65 phones when Fort William purchased it in 1945.

The Port Arthur system took over the Shuniah Municipal Telephone System with 80 phones in 1953 and the Oliver Municipal Telephone System with 125 phones on an exchange at Murillo in 1963. It is interesting to note that Harvey Gorton of Murillo submitted the first report of the Oliver system to the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board in 1910, and served continuously as secretary of the system until it was sold in 1963.

From their establishment in 1902 until 1949, the two municipal systems operated on a manual basis. They grew,

prospered, suffered fire and storm damage, and maintained service somehow during the war years when replacement parts and wire and cable were almost unavailable. Both systems converted from manual to dial operation in 1949, when new buildings on Court Street and Vickers Street were constructed to house the equipment. Since then, additional exchanges at Current River, Murillo, Riverview, Shuniah and Rosslyn have been added to provide for the increased demands for service.

Shortly after the establishment of the new City of Thunder Bay in 1970, and the amalgamation of the two telephone systems, it was decided that a long range study of future telephone development should be made. The study, carried out by the city's own staff, was completed in 1973 and its recommendations were accepted by the council.

The system is now working toward the goals and objectives set forth in the study. One of the first steps was taken in April 1975 when a new electronic exchange, one of the few in Canada, was installed in the expanded Vickers Street building. Similar equipment is to be installed in the Court Street building in 1977-78. The Telephone Department is confident that it can follow the long range plan and meet its stated objective of providing the most up-to-date telephone service to the people of Thunder Bay.

Wightman Telephone Ltd. is one of the largest independent systems in Southern Ontario. In 1975, it was operating almost 3,000 telephones from exchanges at Clifford, Gorrie, Neustadt and Ayton, and was providing modern dial service in those villages and the surrounding rural areas.

The history of telephone service in the Clifford area goes back to 1886, just 10 years after Alexander Graham Bell was granted his patent. The Bell Telephone Company tapped in on the long distance line between Guelph and Walkerton and installed one phone in the combined post office and stationery store owned by K. M. Walton, who was appointed local Bell manager. For some years, this was the only phone in the village and it was used only for long distance calls. A messenger was paid five cents a trip to summon people to the phone when an incoming call was received.

By 1908, there were 11 subscribers in the village, 10 businesses and one residence, but the Bell company would not extend its lines into the adjacent rural area. Robert Wightman, a farmer living west of Clifford, who had applied to Bell for service and had been turned down, contacted other interested farmers and started a rural telephone system of his own. The system, consisting of three long lines connected to a primitive switchboard in the Wightman farm kitchen, was completed in 1909.

In 1911, Mr. Wightman was appointed the Bell manager in Clifford. He moved to the village and discarding his own switchboard, connected the three lines to the Bell exchange to give them access to the long distance network. Both systems continued to grow. By 1920, Wightman's rural system was operating 270 phones, and by 1929 almost 400.

In 1928, Clarence Green bought the Clifford exchange and village phones from Bell, together with Bell's smaller exchanges at Ayton and Neustadt. He operated for a few months as the Green Telephone System. In 1929, Robert Wightman's son, Benjamin, bought the Green system and also his father's rural



Wightman Telephone Ltd.
New business office and exchange building at Clifford

system. He merged the two into one company which he managed until his death in 1948.

His widow, Mrs. Leila Wightman, and teenage son, Ray, took over the management. They soon embarked on a modernization program beginning with the installation of a new common battery exchange at Clifford in 1952, and of a small three-digit dial office at Neustadt in 1954.

In 1963, the Bentinck Municipal Telephone System was offered for sale. It had been operating approximately 200 phones on its own exchange at Allan Park, and 90 phones on a service station basis on Wightman's Ayton exchange. The Bell Telephone Company bought the Allan Park exchange and phones and Wightman bought the 90 phones on the Ayton exchange.

A modern seven-digit dial exchange was installed the next year at Ayton and the three-digit system at Neustadt was replaced with new seven-digit equipment. Coincident with the dial conversion at Ayton, the Wightman company bought the assets of the Normanby Municipal Telephone System and the Ayton Telephone Co. Ltd., two small service station systems which had been switched at the Ayton exchange.

In 1966, the company took a big step forward with the purchase of the assets of two fairly large neighbouring independents; the Howick Municipal Telephone System with 400 phones on an exchange at Fordwich; and the Wroxeter Telephone Co. Ltd. with 450 phones on an exchange at Wroxeter.

The Villages of Wroxeter, Gorrie and Fordwich are located within five miles of one another along Highway 87 in Huron County. The Wroxeter Telephone Co. Ltd. served the Wroxeter area and part of the Village of Gorrie, and the Howick system served the Fordwich area and also served in the Village of Gorrie. The Ontario Telephone Service Commission met several times with representatives of both systems in an effort to persuade them that they should amalgamate in order that the overlap situation in Gorrie might be corrected; and even more

important, in order that one strong system could be formed which would be large enough to handle a dial conversion program. Both systems agreed with the proposition in principle, but no one person or group in either company was willing to promote the idea. Eventually, Ray Wightman was approached and he made satisfactory offers for the purchase of the two systems and merged them with his own, thereby almost doubling his total phones to approximately 2,000.

Mr. Wightman immediately began rebuilding the outside plant of the former Howick and Wroxeter systems, and in 1968 installed a new dial exchange at Gorrie to serve the whole area. Capital expenditure on this project was approximately half a million dollars. In order to facilitate financing, the company was incorporated under the name Wightman Telephone Limited and the members of the Wightman family received shares for their respective interests in the former partnership.

In 1970, the final step in the modernization program was taken when the Clifford exchange was converted to dial and a new building was constructed to house the equipment and the company's business office.

As might be expected from a third generation member of a family which has been actively engaged in the telephone business for almost 70 years, Ray Wightman has contributed much to the work of the various telephone associations. He has been both a Governor of the Canadian Independent Telephone Association and President of the Ontario Telephone Association.

The Wilmot Municipal Telephone System was established in 1922 when a number of landowners in the Township of Wilmot petitioned the council to organize a municipal telephone system. By signing the petition, the landowners pledged their land as security for the debentures, which the township issued to finance the project.

The purpose of forming the system was to take over and expand an existing telephone company in the area called the Ernst Telephone System. It had been built in 1907 by Dr. J. P. Ernst of New Hamburg. When it was sold to Wilmot it was operating approximately 275 phones.

The Wilmot system soon installed its own exchange in Baden, a village located some 10 miles west of Kitchener, but continued to operate a number of phones on a service station basis from the Bell exchange in New Hamburg. Its total number of phones gradually increased as the years went by and it had more than 600 customers by 1959. In that year the Wilmot system bought the neighbouring New Dundee Rural Telephone Co. Ltd. which operated 271 phones on a service station basis from the Bell exchange in New Dundee.

Telephone service was first started in the New Dundee area after the turn of the century when J. C. Hallman built a single line from his home to the E. H. Thamer general store, a distance of two and a half miles. In 1904, the Bell Telephone Company installed a switchboard in Thamer's store. From this exchange it served residents of the village and about 18 rural customers.

The rural customers were served on two multi-party lines. The doctor's phone was on one line and the local veterinarian's on the other. Since the switchboard operator did not work at night or on Sundays, one of the circuits was connected to the doctor's home, the other to the veterinarian's. If the vet received a call for the doctor he would walk over to the doctor's home to relay the message. The doctor would

show similar cooperation if he received a call for the vet.

The Bell Telephone Company was not interested in expanding farther into the rural area around the village although many farmers were anxious to obtain service. A group of them got together in 1908 and formed the New Dundee Telephone Co. Ltd. which started with 170 customers on 17 lines connected to the Bell exchange in New Dundee. Members of the original board of directors were Jacob C. Hallman, Amos Hillborn, David Bergey, Alexander McDonald and Wesley Erb. Amos Hillborn's son, Ivan, became secretary of the company in 1927 and served in that capacity until the system was sold in 1959. Another employee with a long record of service was Norman Kaster who was the company lineman for 36 years.

Five years after the Wilmot Municipal Telephone System had taken over the New Dundee system, a resolution was passed at a subscribers' meeting which provided that any customer who was a landowner and who had been taking service for five years or more could become a subscriber of the Wilmot Municipal Telephone System by signing a petition form pledging his land. The purpose of the resolution was to permit former customers of the New Dundee company to become subscribers and, therefore, part owners of the Wilmot system. Quite a number of them completed the necessary forms but a few who did not wish to encumber their land refused to become subscribers. They were soon to regret this because the system was sold less than a year later and only registered subscribers shared in the proceeds.

The reason the system was sold was really because it was too prosperous. It had successfully completed the dial conversion of the Baden exchange in 1964 and was providing good service. Its serving area, however, was fast becoming a suburb of Kitchener and more and more financing was required every year to build new plant and meet the demand for new services. The Wilmot Township Council finally decided that since there were several large telephone companies who were ready and willing to take over the system, there was no need for the municipality to be in the telephone business.

The matter was discussed at the annual meeting of subscribers in March 1967 and a resolution was passed authorizing the commissioners to offer the system for sale. A call for tenders was advertised and four bids were received. Three were from other telephone companies, and the other from a group of Wilmot Township businessmen who hoped to keep the system locally owned and operated. The sealed tenders were opened at a special meeting held on June 22, 1967. The subscribers voted to approve sale to the Bell Telephone Company whose bid of \$1,244,000 was the highest. The Wilmot system was operating a total of 1,300 phones when it was taken over by Bell on September 27, 1967.

When the system's debts had all been paid and a final audit was made, it was found that approximately a million dollars was available for distribution among the registered subscribers. The system's records listed approximately 600 subscribers, but a great many more landowners claimed that they also qualified. Total distribution of the cash assets had to be delayed until their claims were settled.

In December 1968 the Ontario Telephone Service Commission approved a partial distribution to each registered subscriber for a total of approximately half of the assets but required that the balance be retained until the courts had an opportunity to examine the claims of the people demanding that their names be added to the list of subscribers. There were more than 50 of these and most were settled by the commissioners of the system but 14 took their claims to court. These cases were finally settled by Justice King of the Supreme Court of Ontario in June of 1970. In August of that year the Commission permitted distribution of the balance of the assets, less a contingency fund to cover legal fees and other expenses.



The "Picturephone", Telephone of the Future

(Courtesy: Bell Canada)

In 1909, a company to be called the Union Telephone Co. Ltd. purchased the Bell Telephone exchange at Kleinburg and arranged with Bell for long distance connections at Woodbridge and Richmond Hill. The bill of sale was signed by R. D. McLean as president and Edward W. Brown as secretary of the proposed company. However, when the provisional directors of the company applied for letters patent, they were informed that there was another company in Ontario with the same name. A charter was finally issued in 1910 in the name of the Woodbridge and Vaughan Telephone Company Limited. Dr. Fred W. Routley of Maple was secretary-manager of the company from a time shortly after its incorporation until he sold his controlling interest in the capital stock to the Bell Telephone Company in 1928.

The Woodbridge and Vaughan system expanded rapidly. By 1913, it was reporting over 500 phones and had become a member of the York and Ontario Independent Telephone Union.

Another member of the Union, the Uxbridge and Scott Telephone Co. Ltd., which operated 150 phones from an exchange at Uxbridge, made arrangements in 1912 to sell to the Bell Telephone Company. The other members of the York and Ontario Independent Telephone Union did not wish to see one of their key members fall to Bell and persuaded the Railway and Municipal Board to withhold its approval of the sale. The Markham and Pickering Telephone Co. Ltd. (another member of the Union) then bought a controlling interest in Uxbridge and Scott but continued to operate it under the same name.

At the same time, the Markham and Pickering Telephone Co. Ltd. embarked on an expansion program in its own area and, in order to facilitate financing, reorganized the company and changed its name to the Home Telephone Co. Ltd.

When the Home Telephone Co. Ltd. started in business it had almost 1,000 phones, and exchanges in Markham, Pickering, Whitby, Unionville, Claremont and Port Perry, and it

controlled the exchange at Uxbridge through its subsidiary, the Uxbridge and Scott Telephone Co. Ltd. The Bell Telephone Company also operated exchanges in each of these towns and, as can be imagined, this was a most unsatisfactory arrangement. Finally, in 1922, Bell withdrew from Uxbridge, Markham, Pickering, Claremont and Unionville, and the Home Telephone system withdrew from Whitby and Port Perry thus solving a very bad overlap situation. During the same year, the Home Telephone Co. Ltd. absorbed the Uxbridge and Scott Telephone Co. Ltd., which it had operated as a subsidiary since 1912.

In addition to its acquisition of the Uxbridge and Scott system, the Home Telephone Co. Ltd. (or its predecessor, Markham and Pickering) took over a number of small systems in the area. It purchased two private lines at Saintfield, each with about 10 phones in 1913. These had been owned by local doctors: Dr. F. E. Mellow and Dr. C. W. Hender. It also purchased the Moore and Moore Telephone System at Brooklin with its 13 customers, in 1920. In 1922, it purchased the Claremont and Ashburn Telephone Company, with an exchange at Claremont and about 100 phones.

The Home Telephone Co. Ltd. had been organized and was managed for many years by Alph Hoover, who was one of the founders of the Canadian Independent Telephone Association and served as its president and later as secretary for a total of 35 years.

Meanwhile, the Woodbridge and Vaughan Telephone Co. Ltd. had also been growing rapidly. In addition to normal growth within its own area around Woodbridge, it acquired the King Telephone Co. Ltd. with an exchange at King and 280 phones, in 1923; and was operating a total of more than 1,000 phones when the Bell Telephone Company bought a controlling interest in its shares in 1928.

Both the Woodbridge and Vaughan and the Home Telephone systems lost a large number of phones during the depression and by 1936 the latter company's financial position was such that it decided to look for help, and sold a controlling interest in its stock to Bell. Both "controlled" companies were operated under their own names with their own staffs, but management was supervised by Bell officials on their Boards of Directors.

In 1939, it was decided to amalgamate the two systems under the name, Home Telephone Co. Ltd., but it was found that the financial set-up of the company was still so confused as to make this impractical. The merger was, therefore accomplished by the Woodbridge and Vaughan company buying the assets of the Home system, rather than the other way around, although the name of the combined system hardly described the area it covered, which now stretched from north of Whitby to west of Toronto.

A man who had received his early telephone training with the company, had worked for the Bell Telephone Company for a short time, and then had returned to become manager of Woodbridge and Vaughan following Bell's purchase of control, was appointed manager of the combined operation. His name was Morley Kinnee and he continued as manager until 1950 when Bell absorbed the company into its overall operation. Mr. Kinnee also presided over the winding up of the company's affairs, and later did the same job for the Southern Ontario Telephone Co. Ltd. which Bell took over the same year. He was then appointed an official of Bell's Independent Company Relations group and became well known among independents throughout the province. His job involved helping them with the commercial and accounting problems; and he assisted many of the small systems which had no wish to tackle modernization programs, to make a deal with Bell and get out of business.

Following the war, the system grew rapidly, but it was difficult to keep up with the demand for service in what was becoming a suburban area around Toronto. In 1948,

it took over the Schomberg Telephone Co. Ltd. with approximately 300 phones, and by 1950 it was operating a total of 7,000 phones, but had almost 800 "held orders" for new services. It was decided that a tremendous construction program was needed to meet the demands of the area and that the Woodbridge and Vaughan organization, with its limited staff and limited ability to finance a large capital expenditure, should be phased out of the picture. The Bell Telephone Company, which owned more than 90 percent of the company's stock, simply merged the system with its own. On January 1, 1951, Bell took over the area and the Woodbridge and Vaughan system ceased to exist. In the following few years it was estimated that more than \$10 million was spent to convert the system to dial and construct extra plant to take care of the growing population.



(Courtesy: Canadian Telephone Journal)

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Aberdeen Plummer & Centre Line Telephone Association Limited	Algoma	1914	Bell Canada	1955	36
Abitibi Canyon-Fraserdale Tel. System	Cochrane		Northern Telephone Ltd.	1950	58
Abitibi Power & Paper Co. Ltd.	Cochrane	1926	In operation	1975	1017
Acorn Rural Telephone Assoc. Ltd.	Renfrew	1912	Bell Canada	1960	19
Adaddington Telephone Company Limited	Lennox & Addington	1910	Bell Canada	1970	35
Adadison Rural Independent Tel. Co. Ltd.	Leeds & Grenville	1908	Bell Canada	1964	312
Adelaide Rural Telephone Assoc. Ltd.	Middlesex	1909	Falkirk Telephone System	1942	165
Admaston Rural Telephone Assoc. Ltd.	Renfrew	1910	Bell Canada	1954	29
Adolphustown Rural Telephone System	Lennox & Addington	1910	Eastern Community	1960	59
Ahmic Telephone Company Limited	Parry Sound	1907	Magnetawan Mun. Tel. Sys.	1926	67
Alba Telephone Association	Renfrew	1911	North Renfrew Tel. Co.	1922	63
Alberton Municipal Telephone System	Rainy River	1922	Bell Canada	1957	88
Albertville Telephone Association	Essex	1907	Not recorded	1919	16
Aldborough Farmers Tel. Assoc. Ltd.	Elgin/Middlesex	1909	Bell Canada	1956	167
Alexander Telephone System	Grey/Bruce	1909	Elmwood Telephone System	1928	147
Algoma Central and Hudson Bay Railway Company	Algoma	1899	Algoma Central Tel. Co. Ltd.	1955	87
Algoma Central Telephone Co. Ltd.	Algoma	1936	Northern Tel. Co. Ltd.	1957	495
Algoma Eastern Railway Company	Algoma	1900	Not recorded	1934	12
Algonquin Park Telephone System	Nipissing	1915	Bell Canada	1952	127
Alice Telephone Company Limited	Renfrew	1914	Bell Canada	1952	40
"A" Line Telephone Association	Algoma	1907	St. Joseph Island Tel.	1919	21
Alke Telephone System	Simcoe	1907	Flos Mun. Tel. System	1913	54
Allenford Rural Telephone Co. Ltd.	Bruce	1912	Bell Canada	1970	248

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Alnwick Rural Telephone Company Limited	Northumberland	1908	Bell Canada	1970	246
Amabel Telephone Company Limited	Bruce	1911	Bell Canada	1960	28
Amaranth Telephone Co-operative Assoc. Limited	Dufferin	1902	East Luther Tel. Co. Ltd	1922	58
Amherst Island Municipal Tel. System	Lennox & Addington	1951	Bell Canada	1966	105
Anderson Telephone System	Simcoe	1909	Beeton Telephone Co. Ltd	1911	
Ansonia and Thessalon Mun. Tel. System	Algoma	1916	Bell Canada	1954	76
Ansonville Telephone Company Limited	Cochrane	1923	Calvert Mun. Tel. System	1951	55
Apsley Telephone Company Limited	Peterborough	1908	Bell Canada	1957	29
Arden and Long Lake Telephone System	Frontenac	1910	Arden & Parham Tel. Sys.	1922	121
Arden and Parham Telephone System	Frontenac	1910	Sharbot Lake & Parham Tel. Sys. & Arden Sys.	1946	150
Arden Telephone System	Frontenac	1921	Bell Canada	1960	129
Ardoch and Clarendon Telephone Company	Frontenac		Ceased to operate	1947	7
Ardoch Rural Telephone System	Frontenac	1921	Kaladar and Northern Telephone System	1961	56
Ardtree Telephone Company Limited	Simcoe	1911	Bell Canada	1938	35
Arkona Telephone System	Lambton/Middlesex	1921	Parkhill Arkona Tel. Ltd	1922	260
Arkona, Warwick and Adelaide Long Distance Telephone System	Lambton/Middlesex	1907	Arkona Telephone System	1921	100
Armstrong Private Telephone Line	Hastings	1919	Ceased to operate	1947	1
Armstrong Telephone Company Limited	Nipissing	1912	Temiskaming Tel. Co. Ltd.	1922	21
Arran Municipal Telephone System	Grey	1926	Bell Canada	1963	11
Arran No. 1 Telephone Company Limited	Bruce	1912	Bell Canada	1963	68
Artemesia Municipal Telephone System	Grey	1920	Bell Canada	1962	36
Ashgrove Rural Telephone Company Ltd.	Halton	1908	Bell Canada	1928	13

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Assigninac Municipal Telephone System	Manitoulin	1920	Manitoulin Island Tel. Co. Ltd.	1970	96
Atherley Telephone Association Limited	Ontario	1918	Rama Mara Tel. Co. Ltd.	1933	6
Atwood Municipal Telephone System	Rainy River	1920	Bell Canada	1959	32
Augsburg Telephone Company Limited	Renfrew	1919	Bell Canada	1964	27
*Austin Telephones Limited	Northumberland/ Hastings	1912	Bell Canada	1956	994
*Aylmer and Malahide Tel. Co. Ltd.	Elgin	1928	In operation	1975	7292
Aylmer and Mapleton Tel. Co. Ltd.	Elgin	1913	South Malahide Tel. Co.	1914	40
Ayr Rural Telephone Company Limited	Waterloo/ Brant/ Oxford	1908	Bell Canada	1948	167
Ayton Telephone Company Limited	Grey	1913	Wightman Tel. Co. Ltd.	1964	21
Babe and White Telephone System	Dufferin	1908	Bell Canada	1913	
Backline Telephone Company Limited	Dufferin	1911	Bell Canada	1953	25
Balaclava Telephone Company Limited	Grey	1912	Bell Canada	1959	30
Balderson Telephone Company Limited	Lanark	1912	In operation	1975	277
Balmoral Telephone System	Kent	1923	Bell Canada	1926	125
Balsam Hill Telephone Company Limited	Renfrew	1912	Bell Canada	1954	22
Balsam Lake Telephone Company	Victoria	1915	Cambray Telephone Co. Ltd	1921	10
Barrett Telephone Association	Norfolk	1915	Norfolk County Tel. Co.	1921	6
Barrie-Angus Telephone Company Limited	Simcoe	1907	Bell Canada	1957	110
Barrie Island Telephone Company Limited	Manitoulin	1908	Bell Canada	1970	29
Barton and Binbrook Telephone Co. Ltd.	Wentworth	1909	Bell Canada	1920	136
Bascom and McClintock Telephone System	Ontario	1901	Bell Canada	1913	40
Base Line Telephone Club	Algoma	1918	Korah Base Line Tel. Co.	1919	13

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Bathurst and Drummond Telephone Assoc.	Lanark	1910	Mississippi Tel. Co. Ltd.	1913	8
Bayfield Municipal Telephone System	Huron	1911	Tuckersmith Mun. Tel.Sys	1927	19
Bayham & Houghton Telephone Co. Ltd.	Elgin	1906	Aylmer & Malahide Tel. Co.Ltd. & Norfolk & Tillsonburg Tel.Co.Ltd.	1936	153
Bayham, Houghton & Tillsonburg Telephone Assoc. Ltd.	Elgin	1907	Aylmer & Malahide Tel. Co.Ltd. & Norfolk & Tillsonburg Tel.Co.Ltd.	1938	96
B.D. & H. Telephone Line	Lennox & Addington	1913	Yarker Rural Tel. Co.Ltd	1962	3
Beachburg Rural Telephone Co. Ltd.	Renfrew	1911	North Renfrew Tel.Co.Ltd.	1922	35
Beardmore Telephone Company Limited	Thunder Bay	1937	Long Lac Telephones Ltd.	1944	44
Beatrice Telephone Association	Muskoka	1915	Watt Municipal Tel.Sys.	1916	
*Beatty Telephone System	Northumberland & Durham	1895	Port Hope Tel. Co. Ltd.	1956	252
Beaver Creek Telephone Company Limited	Hastings	1914	Bell Canada	1962	33
Beaver Mills Telephone System	Ontario	1909	Not recorded	1928	1
Beaver Telephone Company	Victoria	1908	Oakwood Telephone Co.Ltd.	1923	12
*Beaver Valley Municipal Tel. System	Grey	1912	Bell Canada	1962	402
Beckwith and Montague Rural Telephone Company Limited	Lanark	1915	Bell Canada	1961	60
*Beeton Telephone Company Limited	Simcoe/Dufferin	1911	Bell Canada	1957	1006
Bellrock & Shimo Telephone Co. Ltd.	Lennox & Addington	1916	Verona & Frontenac Tel. Co. Ltd. & Enterprise Tel. System Ltd.	1947	21
Bellrock and Verona Indep. Tel. Co.	Addington	1914	Verona & Bellrock Tel.Co.	1921	19
Belmont Municipal Telephone System	Peterborough	1922	Bell Canada	1957	173
Belmont Tel. Co-operative Assoc. Ltd.	Elgin/Middlesex	1905	Bell Canada	1962	545

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Belmont Telephone System	Peterborough	1916	Havelock-Cordova Tel.Co.	1920	17
Belyea Brothers	Frontenac	1940	Bell Canada	1956	2
J. L. Ben	Frontenac	1907	Long Lake Rural Tel. Co.	1913	107
Ben Allen Telephone Company Limited	Grey	1910	Bell Canada	1959	8
Bentinck Municipal Telephone System	Grey	1949	Wightman Tel. Co. Ltd. & Bell Can	1963	316
Berwick Telephone System	Dufferin	1904	Robert H. Edgar	1916	19
Bethany Telephone Union	Durham	1915	Manvers Telephone Sys.	1922	130
Bethal Rural Telephone Association	Grey	1909	Bell Canada	1963	23
Bethesda Mutual Telephone Company Limited	Durham	1908	Bell Canada	1937	12
*Bethesda & Stouffville Telephone Co. Ltd.	York/Ontario	1904	Bell Canada	1960	2882
Bexley Telephone Company Limited	Victoria	1914	Ceased to operate	1939	26
Billings Mutual Telephone Company Limited	Manitoulin	1912	Bell Canada	1970	64
Birch Lake Telephone Company Limited	Sudbury	1919	Ceased to operate	1938	9
Black Lake Telephone Company Limited	Lanark	1923	Bell Canada	1961	11
Blackwater Telephone Line	Victoria	1917	Oakwood Telephone Co.Ltd	1924	
Blair Telephone System	Simcoe/Dufferin	1916	Cauthers Telephone Sys.	1924	55
Blanchard Telephone System	Ontario	1909	Derryville Tel. Co. Ltd.	1927	11
*Blanshard Municipal Telephone System	Perth	1924	In operation	1975	3496
Blenheim & South Kent Telephone Company Limited	Kent	1907	Bell Canada	1917	635
Blind Line Telephone Company Limited	Grey	1911	St. Vincent Municipal Telephone System	1963	11
"B" Line Telephone Association #7	Algoma	1910	St. Joseph Island Tel. Co. Ltd.	1920	3
Blyth Municipal Telephone System	Huron	1910	Maitland Teleservices Ltd.	1967	868

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX I

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Boat Lake Telephone Company Limited	Bruce	1917	Bell Canada	1963	10
Bobcaygeon Rural Telephone Company Ltd.	Victoria	1914	Bell Canada	1961	134
Bognor Telephone Company Limited	Grey	1909	Bell Canada	1959	20
* Bolton Telephone Company Limited	Peel/York	1908	Bell Canada	1956	1206
Bond Telephone Association	Bruce	1914	Victory Telephone Co. Ltd	1920	16
Bond's Corners Telephone Company Limited	Oxford	1910	Bell Canada	1926	13
Bon Echo Long Distance Telephone Line	Lennox & Addington	1926	Kaladar & Northern Tel. System	1929	
Bonfield Telephone Company Limited	Nipissing	1920	Bell Canada	1956	28
Border Lumber Company Limited	Rainy River	1922	J.A.Mathiew Ltd. Tel. Sys.	1926	1
Bousfield Telephone Line	Halton	1909	Halton Telephone Co. Ltd.	1926	4
Bowesville Telephone Company Limited	Carleton	1910	Bell Canada	1920	12
Bowman Telephone System	Grey/Bruce	1909	Alexander Telephone Sys.	1923	155
Boyd Telephone System	Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry	1908	Bell Canada	1913	21
Bracebridge and Muskoka Lakes Telephone Company Limited	Muskoka	1907	Medora & Wood Mun. Sys.	1932	86
Bracebridge and Northwood Telephone Company Limited	Muskoka	1922	Bell Canada	1959	17
Bradden Telephone Company Limited	Hastings	1906	McCreary Tel. Co. Ltd.	1923	310
Bradford Telephone System	Simcoe	1910	Beeton Tel. Co. Ltd.	1911	25
Brant Telephone Company Limited	Bruce	1910	Bell Canada	1963	16
Brechin Telephone System	Ontario	1939	Bell Canada	1957	31
Dr. R. S. Brewster	Simcoe	1909	Beeton Telephone Co. Ltd.	1911	
Brick Corners Telephone Line	Durham	1914	Manvers Mun. Tel. Sys.	1922	18

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX I

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Brigden Rural Telephone Company	Lambton	1909	Moore Mun. Tel. Sys.	1913	
Brigham Telephone System	Grey	1912	Suroff Telephone System	1920	210
Brighton Municipal Telephone System	Northumberland	1912	Bell Canada	1961	571
Brockville Road Rural Telephone Co. Ltd.	Leeds	1920	Bell Canada	1967	102
Brodie Telephone System	Ontario		Not recorded		
Bromley Line Telephone Association	Renfrew	1911	North Renfrew Tel. Co. Ltd	1922	48
Bromley Telephone Association Limited	Renfrew	1911	Davis Telephone Co. Ltd.	1960	44
Brookdale Rural Telephone System	Lennox & Addington	1914	Perry Telephone System	1920	15
*Brooke Municipal Telephone System	Lambton	1911	In operation	1975	1374
Brougham & Gratton Telephone Co. Ltd.	Renfrew	1907	Davis Telephone System	1956	14
Browning Island Telephone Line	Muskoka	1931	Bell Canada	1960	2
Brown Private Telephone Line		1914	Ceased to operate	1950	3
*Bruce Municipal Telephone System	Bruce	1911	In operation	1975	7374
Brudenell & Lyndoch Municipal Telephone System	Renfrew	1923	Madawaska Valley Tel. Co. Ltd.	1955	62
Brudenell Telephone Company Limited	Renfrew	1922	Ceased to operate	1946	5
Brussels, Morris & Grey Municipal Telephone System	Huron	1909	Maitland Teleservices Ltd.	1967	1120
Burgessville Telephone Company Limited	Oxford/Brant	1905	North Norwich Mun. Sys.	1923	626
Burnt River Telephone Company Limited	Victoria	1907	Bell Canada	1970	506
Burpee Municipal Telephone System	Manitoulin	1930	Bell Canada	1971	61
Burwash Telephone Line	Sudbury	1929	Bell Canada	1966	140
Byron Telephone Company Limited	Middlesex	1908	Bell Canada	1960	3028
Cadman & Milling Telephone System	Lennox & Addington	1909	Henderson & Milling Tel. System	1915	22

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Calabogie & Renfrew Telephone System	Renfrew	1911	Guest Telephone System	1947	46
Calabogie Telephone System	Renfrew	1963	Bell Canada	1968	244
E. R. Caldwell Telephone System	Lanark	1923	Bell Canada	1959	2
Caledon Municipal Telephone System	Peel/Dufferin	1919	Bell Canada	1961	635
Caledon Telephone Company Limited	Peel	1908	Consolidated Tel.Co.Ltd.	1909	250
Calvert Municipal Telephone System	Cochrane	1951	Northern Telephone Ltd.	1963	982
*Cambray Telephone Company Limited	Victoria	1908	In operation	1975	485
Camden Independent Telephone Co. Limited	Lennox & Addington	1910	Perry Tel. System	1926	218
Cameron Telephone Company Limited	Victoria	1914	Bell Canada	1969	301
Campbell Telephone System	Simcoe	1910	Bell Canada	1913	22
Campberrdown Telephone Company Limited	Grey	1920	Bell Canada	1963	29
Camp Borden Telephone System	Simcoe	1916	Bell Canada	1953	713
W. E. Campsall	Muskoka	1907	Muskoka Independent Telephone System	1913	54
Canadian Explosives Limited		1910	Imperial Munitions Board	1918	55
Canadian Industries Limited	Parry Sound	1922	Bell Telephone Co.	1940	53
Canadian International Paper Co. Ltd.	Nipissing		Bell Telephone Co.	1957	4
Canadian Machine Telephone Co. Ltd.	Brant/Victoria/ Peterborough	1902	Bell Canada	1925	1026
Cannon Telephone Company	Frontenac/Lanark	1909	H. A. Conboy	1919	24
*Capital Telephone Company Limited	Carleton/Lanark/ Frontenac	1966	In operation	1975	165
Capreol Telephone Company Limited	Sudbury	1928	Docon Telephones Ltd.	1947	307
Caradoc Ekfrid Telephone Co. Limited	Middlesex	1908	In operation	1975	2414
Carholme & Walsingham Telephone Company	Norfolk	1910	South Walsingham Tel.Co. Limited	1925	21

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Carlow Municipal Telephone System	Hastings	1920	Madawaska Valley Tel. Co. Limited	1955	53
Carlsruhe Telephone Association	Bruce	1904	Bell Canada	1953	2
Carpenter-Hixon Company Limited Telephone System	Algoma	1917	Dept. of Lands & Forests (Ont.)	1936	28
Carp River Telephone Club	Algoma	1913	Mount Granite Tel. Co. Ltd.	1920	13
Carscallen Telephone System	Lennox & Addington	1916	Redden Telephone System	1921	43
Cavan Rural Telephone Company Limited	Durham	1916	Docon Telephones Ltd.	1957	90
Cauthers Telephone System	Dufferin	1915	Everett Telephone	1939	36
Central Brant Telephone Company Limited	Bruce	1911	Bell Canada	1966	36
Central Clarke Telephone Company	Durham	1906	Orono Telephone Company	1916	21
Central Community Telephone Co. Limited	Various	1963	Central Community Tel. Ltd.	1969	3361
Central Community Telephone Limited	Various	1969	Community Telephone Co. of Ontario Limited	1971	7843
Central Dufferin Telephone Association Limited	Dufferin/Grey	1902	Ceased to operate	1921	23
Centralia Mount Carmel Telephone Co. Ltd.	Huron/Middlesex	1900	Francis W. Clarke, Crediton	1927	35
Central Telephone Company Limited	York	1909	Bethesda & Stouffville Tel. Co. Ltd.	1910	74
Central Telephone Line	Algoma	1905	St. Joseph's Island Telephone Co. Ltd.	1919	19
Centre Road Telephone Company Limited	Grey	1921	Bell Canada	1957	26
Centre Thorah Telephone Company Limited	Ontario	1909	Bell Canada	1956	26
Chamberlain Telephone System	Kent/Essex	1907	Wheatley Telephone Co. Limited	1919	176

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Champlain Point Telephone Company Limited	Simcoe	1908	Bell Canada	1947	8
Chapleau Telephone System Limited	Sudbury	1923	Bell Telephone Company	1954	585
Chapple Municipal Telephone System	Rainy River	1915	Bell Canada	1958	173
Chatsworth Rural Telephone Company	Gray	1909	Bell Canada	1959	56
Chauvin & Desmarais Telephone System	Essex		Bell Canada	1913	
Chelmsford Telephone System	Sudbury	1910	Bell Canada	1927	48
Chenier Telephone System	Sudbury	1910	Sudbury-Chelmsford Telephone System	1915	34
Chesley-Desboro Telephone System	Gray	1895	Mooreburg-Desboro Tel. System	1914	8
Chinguacousy Municipal Telephone System	Peel/Halton	1910	Bell Canada	1958	1201
Chippawa Hill Telephone Company Limited	Bruce	1912	Bell Canada	1963	33
Chippawa Rural Telephone Company Limited	Addington/ Frontenac	1916	Enterprise Telephone System	1956	16
Chisholm Municipal Telephone System	Nipissing	1917	Bell Canada	1955	70
Christie Municipal Telephone System	Parry Sound	1922	Bell Canada	1961	31
Citizens' Telephone & Electric Company	Kenora		Kenora Mun. Tel. Syst.	1902	
City View and Merivale Rural Telephone Association	Carleton	1907	Bell Canada	1913	
Claremont & Ashburn Telephone Company	Ontario		Home Telephone Co.Ltd.	1922	100
Clarence Telephone Company Limited	Prescott & Russell	1926	Bell Canada	1966	561
Clarendon Telephone Company	Frontenac	1920	Ceased to operate	1939	4
Francis W. Clarke - Crediton	Huron/Middlesex	1927	No record	1928	35
Clarke-Hope Telephone Line	Durham	1905	Port Hope Tel. Co. Ltd.	1908	
Clavering Telephone Company Limited	Grey	1913	Bell Canada	1962	39
Cobden Rural Telephone Company Limited	Renfrew	1913	Bell Canada	1960	46

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Cochrane Municipal Telephone System	Cochrane	1920	In operation	1975	2437
Cochrane Telephone Company Limited	Cochrane	1912	Cochrane Mun. Tel. Syst.	1920	235
Coe Hill Rural Telephone System	Hastings/Peterboro	1906	Wellaston Rural Tel. System	1940	21
Cohoon Telephone Company	Elgin	1902	South Malahide Tel. Co. Ltd.	1913	
Colborne Municipal Telephone System	Huron	1910	Bell Canada	1962	216
Colchester North Mun. Telephone System	Essex	1908	Bell Canada	1954	354
Cold Springs Rural Telephone Co. Ltd.	Northumberland	1907	Bell Canada	1961	400
Coldstream Telephone System	Middlesex	1921	Ilderton Tel. Co. Ltd.	1961	356
*Coldwater Municipal Telephone System	Simcoe	1915	In operation	1975	727
Community Telephone Company Limited	Various	1955	Continental Telephone Holding Co. Ltd.	1968	
*Community Telephone Co. of Ontario Ltd.	Various	1971	In operation	1975	26251
Conboy Telephone System	Frontenac/Lanark	1909	Maberly Tel. Co. Ltd.	1959	47
Coniston Generating Station Tel. Line	Sudbury	1938	Bell Canada	1950	2
Conmee Telephone System	Thunder Bay	1922	Ceased to operate	1947	2
Connaught Telephone Association	Renfrew	1913	Cobden Rural Telephone Co. Ltd.	1931	17
Conn Telephone Company Limited	Wellington/Grey/Dufferin	1903	Bell Canada	1959	185
Consolidated Telephone Company Limited	Peel/Wellington/Dufferin	1908	Erin Mun. Tel. System & Caledon Mun. Tel. System	1920	494
Continental Telephone Corporation	See Community Telephone Company of Ontario Ltd.				
Continental Telephone Holding Co. Ltd.					
Continental Telephone International Finance Corporation					

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Thos. Convey	Lambton/Kent	1909	Dresden Rural Tel. Syst.	1913	328
Cookstown Telephone System	Simcoe	1910	Beeton Tel. Co. Ltd.	1911	25
Cooper Telephone System	Halton	1911	Milton Tel. Co. Ltd.	1923	9
Cormac and Eganville Telephone Co. Ltd.	Renfrew	1923	Davis Tel. Co. Ltd.	1956	24
Coulson-Jarratt Telephone Company Limited	Simcoe	1910	Bell Canada	1939	60
Coulson Telephone System	Durham	1899	Port Hope Tel. Co. Ltd.	1920	92
Cramahe Municipal Telephone System	Northumberland	1915	Bell Canada	1962	408
Crediton Rural Telephone System	Huron	1910	Bell Canada	1947	200
Cresswell Telephone Company	Victoria	1912	Manilla Union Telephone Co. Ltd.	1924	23
Crews Telephone Company Limited	Northumberland	1908	Bell Canada	1950	9
Crown Hill Telephone Company Limited	Simcoe	1912	Bell Canada	1960	232
Cultus & Marston Telephone Company Limited	Norfolk	1918	Ceased to operate	1937	4
Cultus & Walsingham Centre Telephone Line	Norfolk	1917	South Walsingham Tel. Co. Ltd.	1918	32
Cumberland Telephone System	Carleton/Prescott & Russell	1911	Metcalfe Telephones Ltd.	1962	618
Daoust Telephone System	Sudbury	1915	Ceased to operate	1951	12
Davis Stock Farm Line	Oxford	1909	Not recorded	1917	10
*Davis Telephone Company Limited	Renfrew	1910	Bell Canada	1961	1527
Davidson Private Telephone Line	Haldimand	1906	Erie Telephone Company	1918	3
*Dawn Municipal Telephone System	Kent/Lambton	1911	Thamesville Tel. Co. Ltd.	1969	375
Robert Dawson	Northumberland	1904	Mount Pleasant Tel. Co.	1913	271
Dawson Township Amalgamated Tel. Co. Ltd.	Manitoulin	1952	Bell Canada	1972	21
Dawson Township Telephone Company Limited	Manitoulin	1918	Dawson Township Amalgamated Tel. Co. Ltd.	1952	21

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Delphi, Thornbury & Clarksburg Tel. Co.	Grey	1907	Camperdown Tel. Co. Ltd.	1920	7
Dennie Telephone System	Sudbury	1948	Bell Canada	1954	39
Derby Telephone Company Ltd.	Grey	1909	Bell Canada	1954	132
Dereham Telephone Company Limited	Oxford	1907	Bell Canada	1920	260
Derryville Telephone Company Limited	Ontario	1926	Bell Canada	1962	22
Desboro-Mooreburg Telephone Co. Ltd.	Grey	1895	Victory Tel. Co. Ltd.	1958	29
Desboro Telephone Company Limited	Grey	1910	Bell Canada	1959	175
Desert Lake Rural Telephone Company	Frontenac	1915	Verona & Frontenac Tel. Co. Ltd.	1920	24
Desmond Rural Telephone Company Limited	Lennox & Addington	1906	Dunnville Consolidated Telephone Co. Ltd.	1964	12
Dingwall Telephone Company Limited	Oxford	1913	Ceased to operate	1950	12
District Telephone Company	Wentworth	1878	Hamilton Telephone Co.	1878	
Doane Telephone Association	York	1908	Bell Canada	1928	21
Dobbinton Telephone Company Limited	Bruce	1950	Bell Canada	1963	67
Docon Telephones Limited	Durham & Northumberland	1942	Durham Telephones Ltd.	1958	551
Doe Lake Telephone Company Limited	Muskoka	1917	Bell Canada	1953	18
Dominion Wood & Lumber Company Limited	Parry Sound	1914	Ceased to operate	1928	9
Donegal Telephone Company Limited	Renfrew	1919	Bell Canada	1964	14
Dore Bay Telephone Company Limited	Renfrew	1914	Bell Canada	1964	23
Douro Municipal Telephone System	Peterborough	1920	Bell Canada	1962	134
Dover Municipal Telephone System	Kent	1909	Bell Canada	1948	498
Dresden Rural Telephone System	Lambton/Kent	1909	Bell Canada	1920	328
Drummond Centre Telephone Company Limited	Lanark	1909	Bell Canada	1968	133
Drummond & Elmsley Telephone Co. Ltd.	Lanark	1915	Bell Canada	1961	15

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Dryden Municipal Telephone System	Kenora	1914	In operation	1975	3939
Dummer Municipal Telephone System	Peterborough	1921	Bell Canada	1967	402
Dundas County Telephone Company Limited	Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry	1895			
Dungannon Municipal Telephone System	Hastings	1921	Madawaska Valley Tel. Co. Ltd.	1957	97
Dunnett Municipal Telephone System	Sudbury	1917	Ceased to operate	1948	41
Dunnville Consolidated Telephone Co. Ltd.	Haldimand	1907	Community Telephone Co. of Ontario Limited	1971	10577
*Dunsford Telephone, Light and Power Co-operative Association Ltd.	Victoria	1908	Bell Canada	1973	420
Dunwich & Dutton Telephone Co. Ltd.	Elgin/Middlesex	1906	Bell Canada	1964	267
Durham Road Telephone Company Limited	Bruce	1918	Bell Canada	1953	17
*Durham Telephones Limited	Durham & Northumberland	1957	In operation	1975	1033
Durham Union Telephone Company Limited	Durham	1906	Orono Tel. Co. Ltd.	1916	272
*Dysart Municipal Telephone System	Haliburton	1921	Bell Canada	1968	2104
East Darlington Telephone Company Limited	Durham	1907	Bell Canada	1931	8
Eastern Community Telephone Company Ltd.	Lennox & Addington	1960	Dunnville Consolidated Telephone Co. Ltd.	1964	1057
East Ferris Municipal Telephone System	Nipissing	1930	Bell Canada	1954	22
East Grey Telephone Company Limited	Grey	1904	(Euphrasia Mun. Tel. Syst. (Artemesia Mun. Tel. Syst. (Glenelg Mun. Tel. System	1952	46
East Luther Telephone System	Dufferin	1902	Bell Canada	1961	667
East Middlesex Telephone Company Limited	Oxford/Middlesex/ Perth	1906	Bell Canada	1963	776

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
East Nissouri Telephone Association	Oxford	1907	Nissouri Tel. Co. Ltd.	1908	
East Oakwood Telephone Company	Victoria	1908	Oakwood Tel. Co. Ltd.	1923	31
East Woodville Telephone Company Limited	Victoria	1913	Bell Canada	1961	29
Edenvale Telephone Association	Simcoe	1911	Minesing Telephone Assoc.	1922	14
Eden Telephone Company	Victoria	1908	Cambray Tel. Co. Ltd.	1918	50
The Robert Henry Edgar Telephone Co. Ltd.	Dufferin/Wellington	1906	Laurel Telephone System	1939	425
Edville & Dundonald Telephone Company	Northumberland	1907	Cramahe Mun. Tel. System	1916	80
Eganville & Brudenell Telephone Assoc.	Renfrew	1913	Brudenell & Lydock Mun. Telephone System	1923	20
Egypt Telephone Company Limited	Ontario	1909	Bell Canada	1956	16
Elderslie-Salem Telephone Association	Bruce	1912	Progressive Tel. Co. Ltd.	1923	20
Eldon Union Telephone Company Limited	Ontario	1911	Bell Canada	1961	99
Elgin-Chaffey's Lock Telephone Company	Leeds	1908	Ceased to operate	1928	1
Elizabeth Bay Mutual Telephone Company	Manitoulin	1912	Burpee Mun. Tel. System	1930	11
Elk Lake Telephone & Telegraph Company	Temiskaming	1909	T. & N. O. Railway Comm.	1914	61
Elliot Private Telephone Line	Algoma	1921	Bell Canada	1950	6
Ellis Rural Telephone Company Limited	Ontario	1911	Bell Canada	1962	16
Elmsley South Rural Telephone Company Ltd.	Leeds	1914	Bell Canada	1954	91
Elm Tree Telephone System	Frontenac	1922	Ceased to operate	1950	2
Elmwood Telephone System	Grey/Bruce	1909	Bell Canada	1966	210
Emily Municipal Telephone System	Victoria	1916	Bell Canada	1962	357
Emo Municipal Telephone System	Rainy River	1914	Bell Canada	1957	280
Ennismore Municipal Telephone System	Peterborough	1920	Bell Canada	1956	90
Enterprise Telephone Association	Algoma	1908	Elliot Private Line and Farmer Private Line	1922	4

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Enterprise Telephone System	Lennox & Addington	1916	Carscallen Tel. System	1918	43
Enterprise Telephone System Limited	Lennox & Addington	1916	Bell Canada	1970	180
Erie Telephone Company Limited	Haldimand	1906	Southern Ontario Tel. Co. Ltd.	1930	1695
Erin Community Telephone Company Limited	Wellington/Dufferin	1958	Central Community Tel. Co. Ltd.	1963	1207
Erin Municipal Telephone System	Wellington/Dufferin	1920	Erin Community Telephone Co. Ltd.	1958	750
Ernestown Rural Telephone Company Ltd.	Lennox/Frontenac	1909	Central Community Tel. Co. Ltd.	1969	591
Ernst Telephone System	Perth/Waterloo	1907	Wilmot Mun. Tel. System	1922	285
Euphrasia Municipal Telephone System	Grey	1912	Bell Canada	1962	140
Evansville Mutual Telephone Company	Manitoulin	1913	Burpee Mun. Tel. System	1930	21
Everett Telephone Company Limited	Simcoe	1915	Noisy River Tel. Ltd.	1956	137
Evergreen Telephone Company Limited	Renfrew	1911	Davis Telephone Co. Ltd.	1960	8
Excelsior Telephone Company Limited	Oxford	1917	Bell Canada	1927	22
Fairview Telephone Company Limited	Oxford	1915	Bell Canada	1938	8
Fairport Telephone Line	Muskoka	1921	Bell Canada	1940	33
Falconbridge Nickel Mines Limited	Sudbury		Bell Canada	1955	188
Falkirk Community Telephone Company Ltd.	Middlesex	1907	Erin Community Telephone Co. Ltd.	1961	499
Fallis Line Telephone Company Limited	Durham	1904	Durham Telephones Limited	1963	16
Fall River Telephone Company	Lanark/Frontenac	1911	Maberly Telephone Co. Ltd	1918	22
Faraday Municipal Telephone System	Hastings	1918	Madawaska Valley Tel. Co. Ltd.	1955	38
Farmer Private Telephone Line	Algoma	1908	Bell Canada	1950	6

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Farmers' Mutual Telephone Company	Welland	1904	Welland County Telephone Co. Ltd.	1906	
Farmers' Telephone Company of Durham, Ltd.	Grey	1929	Bell Canada	1949	11
Farmers' Union Telephone Company	Algoma	1901	Huron Line Tel. Assoc.	1919	18
W. E. Farwell's Private Line	Simcoe	1910	Not recorded	1910	5
Fenella Rural Telephone Company Limited	Northumberland	1910	Bell Canada	1970	78
Fenelon Falls Rural Telephone Co. Ltd.	Victoria	1914	Bell Canada	1963	67
Dr. J. S. Ferguson	Lambton	1909	St. Clair Telephone Co.	1913	99
Ferry Road Telephone Company Limited	Leeds	1917	Bell Canada	1961	112
Fifth Line Telephone Company Limited	Grey	1912	Bell Canada	1959	18
Fifth Side Line Telephone Company	Algoma	1913	St. Joseph Island Mun. Telephone System	1962	10
Fingal Telephone Company Limited	Elgin	1909	Bell Canada	1963	506
Fingerboard Telephone Line	Victoria	1910	Little Britain Telephone Co. Ltd.	1922	23
Finnie Private Telephone Line	Renfrew	1913	Bell Canada	1960	1
Donald Fisher Telephone Line	Norfolk		Norfolk County Telephone Co. Ltd.	1913	
Flos Municipal Telephone System	Simcoe	1912	Bell Canada	1969	1385
Fordwich Rural Telephone Company Limited	Huron	1911	Howick Mun. Tel. System	1923	149
Forest Home Telephone Company Limited	Simcoe	1912	Bell Canada	1939	17
Fort Frances Municipal Telephone System	Rainy River	1913	Bell Canada	1957	2792
Fort William Municipal Telephone System	Thunder Bay	1902	Thunder Bay Telephone Department	1969	26449
Foster Bros. Telephone Company Limited	Renfrew	1919	Davis Telephone Co. Ltd.	1959	11
Fourteenth Brant Telephone Company Limited	Bruce	1911	Bell Canada	1963	18

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Fourth Line of Bathurst Telephone Assoc. Ltd.	Lanark	1913	Bell Canada	1946	9
Fourth Line of Ross Telephone Co. Ltd.	Renfrew	1914	Bell Canada	1960	12
Franklin Telephone Line	Durham	1900	Manvers Mun. Tel. System	1922	17
Fraser Telephone Company Limited	Oxford	1910	Bell Canada	1938	7
Fretts & Brisco Telephone Co. Ltd.	Lennox	1909	Bell Canada	1947	15
Front Road Telephone Association	Northumberland	1903	Bell Canada	1928	6
Gawas Municipal Telephone System	Algoma	1908	St. Joseph Island Mun. Telephone System	1957	22
Germanicus Telephone Association	Renfrew	1914	Dore Bay Rural Telephone Co. Ltd.	1918	21
Gervais Telephone System	Renfrew	1952	Calabogie Telephone Sys.	1963	106
Gillies Hill Telephone Company Limited	Grey/Bruce	1908	Bell Canada	1963	18
Gillies Telephone System	Bruce	1899	Taylor Telephone Co. Ltd.	1960	548
Glaister Telephone System	Perth/Waterloo	1907	Welliesley Mun. Tel. Sys.	1919	275
Glamorgan Municipal Telephone System	Haliburton	1926	Dysart Mun. Tel. System	1962	31
Glandine Telephone Line	Victoria	1911	Little Britain Telephone Co. Ltd.	1922	22
Glasgow Private Telephone System	Stormont, Dundas & Russell	1911	Bell Canada	1938	287
Glen Eden Telephone Company Limited	Grey	1912	Bell Canada	1959	14
Glenelg Municipal Telephone System	Grey	1921	Bell Canada	1962	84
Glengarry Telephone Company Limited	Glengarry	1907	Bell Canada	1966	644
Glen Telephone Company	Durham	1912	Manvers Mun. Tel. System	1922	12
Glenview Rural Telephone Company Limited	Lanark	1916	Bell Canada	1958	55
Gloucester Township Telephone Co. Ltd.	Carleton	1909	Bell Canada	1956	13

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX I

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Goderich Municipal Telephone System	Huron	1909	Bell Canada	1954	371
Goderich Rural Telephone Company Limited	Huron	1910	Huron & Kinloss Municipal Telephone System	1957	596
Golden Rule Telephone Company Limited	Algoma	1924	Bell Canada	1957	14
Gooderham Mutual Telephone Company	Haliburton	1925	Glamorgan Mun. Tel. Sys.	1927	8
Goodwood Rural Telephone Company Limited	Lanark	1915	Bell Canada	1960	309
Gordon Telephone Company Limited	Manitoulin	1910	Bell Canada	1970	55
Gore Bay Municipal Telephone System (See *Manitoulin Island Tel. Co. Ltd.)	Manitoulin	1913	Bell Canada	1968	604
Gore "G" Telephone Company Limited	Prince Edward	1917	Bell Canada	1958	33
Gore Line Telephone Association	Renfrew	1913	North Renfrew Telephone Co. Ltd.	1922	25
Gore Mutual Telephone Company Limited	Essex	1908	Bell Canada	1953	14
Gosfield North Municipal Telephone System	Essex	1908	In operation	1975	1285
Goulais Bay Telephone Company Limited	Algoma	1912	Ceased to operate	1937	2
Gould Telephone System	Victoria	1908	Rosedale Rural Telephone Association	1914	18
Gratton No. 7 Telephone Association	Renfrew	1921	Davis Telephone Co. Ltd.	1959	21
Green Hill Telephone System	Grey	1911	Artemesia Mun. Tel. Sys.	1927	17
Green Telephone System	Wellington	1928	Wightman Telephone System	1928	113
Greenwood Private Line	York	1909	Sutton and North Gwillimbury Telephone Co.	1915	18
Greenwood Telephone Company Limited	Algoma	1909	Bell Canada	1950	28
Grimston Telephone Company Limited	Bruce	1924	Bell Canada	1963	5
Grunwald Private Telephone Line	Muskoka	1912	Bell Canada	1940	12
Guest Bros. Telephone System	Renfrew	1910	Ceased to operate	1917	2

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Guest Telephone System	Renfrew	1947	Gervais Telephone System	1952	101
Hagarty Municipal Telephone System	Renfrew	1922	Madawaska Tel. Co. Ltd.	1955	10
Haileybury and Cobalt Telephone Co. Ltd.	Timiskaming	1905	Temiskaming Tel. Co. Ltd.	1907	
*Haldimand Municipal Telephone System	Northumberland	1915	Bell Canada	1964	325
*Haldimand Rural Telephone Company Limited	Northumberland	1906	Bell Canada	1964	308
Haley's Station Rural Tel. Assoc. (No. 1)	Renfrew	1913	Haley's Station Tel. Co. Ltd.	1925	20
Haley's Station Rural Tel. Assoc. (No. 2)	Renfrew	1913	Haley's Station Tel. Co. Ltd.	1925	6
Haley's Station Telephone Company Limited	Renfrew	1925	Bell Canada	1966	94
Halton Telephone Company Limited	Halton	1909	Bell Canada	1954	420
Hamilton Rural Telephone Company Limited	Northumberland	1907	Coldsprings Rural Tel. Co. Ltd.	1918	172
Hamilton Telephone Company	Wentworth	1878	Bell Canada	1880	
Hampshire Telephone Company Limited	Simcoe	1918	Bell Canada	1946	16
J. R. Hardinge	Hastings/Peterboro	1905	Coe Hill Rural Tel. Sys.	1913	42
Harrietville Telephone Association Ltd.	Elgin/Middlesex	1903	Ingersoll Tel. Co. Ltd.	1948	636
Hartley Telephone Company	Victoria	1909	Cambray Tel. Co. Ltd.	1916	11
Hartman Private Telephone Line	Grey	1922	Camperdown Tel. Co. Ltd.	1947	6
Harvey Municipal Telephone System	Peterboro	1911	Bell Canada	1957	68
Harwood Rural Telephone Company Limited	Northumberland	1907	Bell Canada	1966	112
Hastings Telephone Company	Hastings	1906	Bradden Telephone Co.	1913	265
Havelock-Cordova Telephone Company Ltd.	Peterboro	1921	Belmont Mun. Tel. System	1923	15
Hawley Telephone Company Limited	Lennox & Addington	1913	Bell Canada	1960	12
Hawthorne Hill Rural Telephone Co. Ltd.	Wellington/Perth/ Huron	1908	Bell Canada	1963	270

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX I

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Hayden Telephone Company	Lambton	1907	Bell Canada	1913	
*Hay Municipal Telephone System	Huron	1906	In operation	1975	2927
Hazeldean Rural Telephone Company Limited	Carleton	1909	Bell Canada	1958	863
Head Lake Telephone Company Limited	Victoria	1913	Bexley Tel. Co. Ltd. and Norland Indep. Tel. Co. Ltd.	1932	13
Heckston Rural Telephone Company Limited		1909	Bell Canada	1913	65
Henderson (Dr.) Telephone Company Limited	Ontario	1905	Bell Canada	1962	30
Henderson & Milling Telephone System	Lennox & Addington	1909	Perry Telephone System	1920	22
Hender's Telephone System	Ontario	1912	Home Tel. Co. Ltd.	1913	8
Hepburn Private Telephone Line	Halton	1920	Hutt Private Tel. Line	1922	6
Hepworth & Maple Grove Telephone Co. Ltd.	Bruce/Grey	1912	Bell Canada	1964	27
Heric Telephone System	Waterloo	1909	Wellesley Mun. Tel. Sys.	1919	50
Herrington Telephone System	Lennox & Addington	1910	Napanee & Deseronto Rural Telephone System	1955	34
Herron Private Telephone System	Lanark		Bell Canada	1971	1
Highland Telephone Company	Nipissing	1911	Kerns Mun. Tel. System	1916	85
Highland Telephone Company Limited	Dufferin	1910	Noisy River Tel. Co. Ltd.	1916	55
Hilliard Municipal Telephone System	Teniskaming	1920	Northern Tel. Co. Ltd.	1942	28
Hilton Beach Telephone Line	Algoma	1923	St. Joseph Mun. Tel. Sys.	1952	10
Hilton & Jocelyn Telephone Company	Algoma	1902	Jocelyn Mun. Tel. System	1916	35
Hoath Head & Grey Telephone Company Ltd.	Grey	1911	Bell Canada	1968	40
Home Telephone Company	Wentworth	1908	Not recorded	1908	
Home Telephone Company Limited	Ontario/York	1905	Woodbridge & Vaughan Telephone Co. Ltd.	1939	1450
A. B. Hoover Telephone Company	Haldimand	1904	Erie Telephone Company	1918	3

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Hope Lumber Company Limited	Algoma	1917	McFadden (J.J.) Lumber Co.	1925	3
Hopetown Telephone Company Limited	Lanark/Frontenac	1908	Bell Canada	1971	314
Horton, McNab Telephone Association Ltd.	Renfrew	1909	Bell Canada	1968	207
Houghton & Bayham Telephone Company Ltd.	Norfolk/Elgin	1906	Aylmer & Malahide Tel. Co. Ltd. and Norfolk & Tillsonburg Tel. Co. Ltd.	1936	150
Houghton, Bayham&Tillsonburg Telephone Association Ltd.	Norfolk/Elgin	1907	Aylmer & Malahide Tel. Co. Ltd. and Norfolk & Tillsonburg Tel. Co. Ltd.	1938	120
Houghton & South Walsingham Tel. Assoc.	Norfolk	1906	Southern Ontario Tel. Co. Ltd.	1937	36
Howick Municipal Telephone System	Huron	1923	Wightman Telephone System	1966	399
Howick Telephone Company Limited	Huron	1910	Springbank Tel. Co. Ltd.	1913	
Howland Municipal Telephone System	Manitoulin	1916	Bell Canada	1959	115
Hugel Mutual Telephone Company Limited	Sudbury	1918	Ceased to operate	1953	11
Humphrey Municipal Telephone System	Muskoka/Parry Sound	1922	Bell Canada	1960	156
Hungerford Municipal Telephone System	Hastings	1923	Bell Canada	1962	29
Huntsville & Lake of Bays Tel. Co. Ltd.	Muskoka	1914	Bell Canada	1948	76
Huntsville & Portage Telephone System	Muskoka	1907	Bell Canada	1948	39
*Huron & Kinloss Municipal Telephone System	Bruce/Huron	1911	In operation	1975	2344
Huron Line Telephone Association	Algoma	1901	St. Joseph Island Tel. Co. Ltd.	1919	10
Hurontario Telephones Limited	Lambton	1909	In operation	1975	1221
Hutt Private Telephone Line	Halton	1907	Milton Tel. Co. Ltd.	1923	6
Hymers Telephone System	Thunder Bay	1906	Fort William Municipal Telephone System	1932	5

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Hyndford & Douglas Telephone Assoc. Ltd.	Renfrew	1920	Davis Telephone Co. Ltd.	1960	14
Hyndman's Telephone System	Huron	1908	Thames Road Tel. System	1926	105
Ice Lake Telephone Company Limited	Manitoulin	1913	Bell Canada	1970	72
*Ilderton Telephone Company Limited	Middlesex	1960	Bell Canada	1962	1138
Imperial Munitions Board		1910	Ceased to operate	1919	55
Indian River Telephone Company Limited	Renfrew	1914	Bell Canada	1954	13
Ingersoll Telephone Company Limited	Oxford	1906	Bell Canada	1951	4505
Ingleside Telephone Company Limited	Oxford	1909	Oxford Telephone Co. Ltd.	1951	24
Innerkip Rural Telephone Company Limited	Oxford	1906	Oxford Telephone Co. Ltd.	1947	648
Innisfil Telephone Company Limited	Simcoe	1910	Stroud Telephone Co. Ltd.	1954	153
Inwood Rural Telephone Company Limited	Lambton	1910	Brooke Mun. Tel. System	1914	341
Iron Bridge Telephone Company Limited	Algoma	1921	Bell Canada	1961	171
Islay Telephone Company	Victoria	1908	Cambay Telephone Co. Ltd	1918	39
*Ivy-Thornton Telephone Company Limited	Simcoe	1909	Bell Canada	1967	339
Jackson Telephone Company Limited	Grey	1910	Bell Canada	1959	121
Janetville Private Line	Durham	1913	South Janetville Tel. Sys.	1918	40
Jocelyn Municipal Telephone System	Algoma	1902	St. Joseph Island Mun. Telephone System	1957	6
Johnson & Brandon Telephone Company Ltd.	Ontario	1907	Bell Canada	1962	15
Johnson Municipal Telephone System	Algoma	1913	Bell Canada	1962	148
Kahshe-Sparrow Lake Telephone System	Muskoka	1908	Sparrow Lake Private Telephone Line	1920	8
Kaladar & Northern Telephone System	Lennox & Addington	1910	Bell Canada	1970	870
Katrine Telephone Line	Muskoka	1903	Bell Canada	1913	

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Kawartha Telephone System	Durham	1923	Millbrook Rural Telephone Co. Ltd.	1923	
Keewatin Municipal Telephone System	Kenora	1928	In operation	1975	849
Kemble & Sarawak Telephone Company Limited	Grey	1916	Bell Canada	1955	145
Kenora Municipal Telephone System	Kenora	1902	In operation	1975	6657
Keppel Rural Telephone Company Limited	Grey	1918	Bell Canada	1964	18
Kerns Municipal Telephone System	Timiskaming	1916	Northern Tel. Co. Ltd.	1941	90
Kerr Line Telephone Company Limited	Renfrew	1911	Bell Canada	1961	104
Keward Rural Telephone Company Limited	Grey	1910	Bell Canada	1963	20
Killarney Telephone System	Manitoulin		Bell Canada	1956	100
Kingston Road Rural Telephone Company Ltd.	Northumberland	1911	Ceased to operate	1937	9
Dr. Kingston Telephone Line	Elgin	1902	South Malahide Telephone Co. Ltd.	1913	
King Telephone Company Limited	York	1907	Woodbridge & Vaughan Tel. Co. Ltd.	1923	280
King Township Telephone Company	York	1904	Bell Canada	1913	102
Kirkegaarde Private Telephone Line	Peterborough	1912	Ceased to operate	1924	3
Knister Telephone System	Essex	1907	Tilbury West Municipal Telephone System	1913	155
Korah Base Line Telephone Company Limited	Algoma	1918	Bell Canada	1950	13
Korah Central Telephone Company Limited	Algoma	1910	Bell Canada	1950	18
La Cloche Telephone Company, Limited	Sudbury	1915	Bell Canada	1954	15
Laird Municipal Telephone System	Algoma	1909	Bell Canada	1966	227
Lake of Bays & Haliburton Tel. Co. Ltd.	Muskoka	1908	Bell Canada	1947	45
Lake Charles Telephone Company Limited	Grey	1920	Bell Canada	1964	65
Lake Geneva Mining Company Limited		1941	Ceased to operate	1945	1

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Lake St. Joseph Telephone Company Limited	Kenora	1939	Northern Telephone Ltd.	1961	57
Lake Shore Mutual Telephone Company Ltd.	Bruce	1910	Bruce Mun. Tel. System and Huron & Kinloss Mun. Tel. System	1944	39
Lake Simcoe Rural Telephone Company	Ontario	1911	Bell Canada	1920	8
Lambeth Telephone Company, Limited	Middlesex	1912	Byron Tel. Co. Ltd.	1924	15
Lambton Telephone Company Limited	Middlesex/Lambton	1907	Bell Canada	1957	220
Lanark & Carleton Counties Tel. Co. Ltd.	Lanark	1909	Bell Canada	1948	336
Lanark & Ramsay Telephone Company Ltd.	Lanark	1909	Bell Canada	1966	93
Lang & Lang Telephone Company	Perth	1902	St. Mary's Kirkton & Exeter Tel. Co. Ltd.	1913	
Langton Telephone Company, Limited	Norfolk	1915	Ceased to operate	1937	12
*Lansdowne Rural Telephone Company Limited	Leeds	1906	In operation	1975	1247
LaPasse Rural Telephone Company	Renfrew	1915	North Renfrew Telephone Co. Ltd.	1922	15
Laurel Telephone System	Dufferin/Wellington	1939	Bell Canada	1953	165
Lavalee Municipal Telephone System	Rainy River	1914	Bell Canada	1960	175
Lavant-Dalhousie Telephone Company, Ltd.	Lanark	1909	Bell Canada	1967	46
Lavant & Denbigh Telephone System	Frontenac/Lanark	1921	Dept. of Lands & Forests	1929	123
H. C. Layman	Essex	1909	South Gosfield Tel. Co.	1913	129
Leamington & Mersea Telephone System	Essex	1908	Mersea Mun. Tel. System	1916	302
Leeds & Frontenac Rural Telephone Co. Ltd.	Leeds/Frontenac	1907	Central Community Tel. Ltd.	1969	668
*Leeds & Grenville Independent Telephone Co. Ltd.	Leeds & Grenville	1908	Bell Canada	1959	982
Lee Valley Rural Telephone Company Ltd.	Sudbury	1914	Bell Canada	1954	13

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Leith & Annan Telephone Company, Limited	Grey	1908	Bell Canada	1955	130
Leitrim Telephone Company		1907	Bell Canada	1913	41
Lennox Telephone Company, Limited	Lennox & Addington	1908	Bell Canada	1960	92
Lewis Telephone System	Leeds & Grenville	1907	Bell Canada	1968	328
Lightning Telephone Company, Limited	Renfrew	1912	Davis Telephone Co. Ltd.	1957	11
Lily Creek Telephone Company Limited	Hastings	1922	Bell Canada	1962	11
Little Britain Telephone Company Limited	Victoria	1910	Bell Canada	1968	337
Little Britain Village Telephone Line	Victoria	1915	Little Britain Telephone Co. Ltd.	1922	15
Livingstone Rural Telephone Company Ltd.	Algoma	1919	Bell Canada	1954	44
Llewellyn Beach Telephone Line	Algoma	1917	Not recorded	1918	
Lobo Township Telephone System	Middlesex	1908	United Telephone Co. Ltd.	1908	100
Loch End Ranch Private Telephone Line	Lanark	1923	Bell Canada	1959	2
London Township Municipal Telephone System	Middlesex	1923	Ilderton Telephone Co. Ltd.	1961	694
London Township Telephone System	Middlesex	1908	United Telephone Co. Ltd.	1908	100
Long Lac Telephones Limited	Thunder Bay	1937	Bell Canada	1954	2808
Long Lake Rural Telephone System	Frontenac	1907	Arden & Long Lake Tel. System	1921	121
Loring, Golden Valley & Powassan Tel. Ltd.	Parry Sound	1927	Bell Canada	1963	170
Low Banks Telephone Company Limited	Welland	1905	Ceased to operate	1927	24
Lower Bonnechere Telephone Company Ltd.	Renfrew	1922	Davis Telephone Co. Ltd.	1959	16
Lowville Telephone Company	Halton	1908	Bell Canada	1910	
Lucan, Clandeboye & Brinsley Tel. Assoc.	Middlesex	1910	Not recorded	1911	10
Lucknow & Kinloss Telephone Company Ltd.	Bruce	1908	Bell Canada	1962	16

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Lummis Brothers Telephone Line	Hastings	1919	Armstrong Private Tel. Line	1921	1
*Lyndhurst Telephone Company Limited	Leeds	1909	Bell Canada	1966	332
Lyons Private Telephone Line	Grey	1907	Bell Canada	1953	48
Maberly Telephone Company Limited	Lanark/Frontenac	1911	Capital Tel. Co. Ltd.	1971	125
MacDonald Municipal Telephone System	Algoma	1910	Bell Canada	1966	138
MacDonald Telephone Company Limited	Hastings	1912	Bell Canada	1950	28
MacDonald Telephone System	Wellington	1907	Bell Canada	1913	
Madawaska Telephone Association Limited	Renfrew	1909	Bell Canada	1953	54
Madawaska Valley Telephone Company Ltd.	Renfrew/Hastings	1955	Bell Canada	1960	2331
Magnetawan Municipal Telephone System	Parry Sound	1920	Muskoka & Parry Sound Telephone Company Ltd.	1967	325
Maidstone Municipal Telephone System	Essex	1909	Telontario Incorporated	1973	2200
*Maitland Teleservices Limited	Huron	1967	In operation	1975	2547
Malahide & Bayham Telephone Association Ltd	Elgin/Oxford/ Norfolk	1909	Aylmer & Malahide Tel. Company Limited	1932	344
Mallorytown Telephone Company Limited	Leeds	1908	Bell Canada	1944	282
Manilla Northern Telephone Company	Victoria	1909	Oakwood Tel. Co. Ltd.	1923	80
Manilla Union Telephone Company Limited	Victoria	1913	Dunnville Consolidated Telephone Co. Ltd.	1969	229
Manilla Western Telephone Company	Victoria	1912	Manilla Union Telephone Co. Ltd.	1924	8
Manitoulin Island Rural Telephone Co. Ltd.	Manitoulin	1911	Manitoulin Island Tel. Co. Ltd.	1970	703
*Manitoulin Island Telephone Company Ltd.	Manitoulin	1970	In operation	1975	1608
Manitoulin & North Shore Telegraph & Telephone Company Limited	Manitoulin	1892	Bell Canada	1956	341

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Manse Grove Telephone Company Limited	Victoria	1912	Bell Canada	1961	51
*Manvers Municipal Telephone System	Durham	1922	Bell Canada	1969	412
Manvers 7th & 8th Line Telephone System	Victoria	1915	Manvers Mun. Tel. System	1922	20
Manvers Station Telephone Line	Victoria	1920	Manvers Mun. Tel. System	1922	12
Maple Grove Telephone Company	Bruce/Grey	1912	Hepworth & Maple Grove Telephone Co. Ltd.	1927	24
Maple Grove Telephone Company Limited	Dufferin	1922	Bell Canada	1953	12
Maple Leaf Telephone Club	Algoma	1913	Ceased to operate	1922	3
Maple Leaf Telephone Company Limited	Grey	1912	Bell Canada	1968	5
Maple Leaf Telephone Line	Victoria	1913	Montrose Telephone Co.	1920	14
Maple Leaf Telephone System	Victoria	1907	Oakwood Telephone Co. Ltd	1923	18
Maple Shade Telephone Company Limited	Oxford	1910	Bell Canada	1936	4
Maracle Telephone Line	Hastings	1919	Ceased to operate	1928	5
Mariposa Central Telephone Line	Victoria	1908	Little Britain Telephone Co. Ltd.	1922	18
Mariposa Telephone Union	Victoria	1909	Oakwood Telephone Co. Ltd	1923	185
Markham & Pickering Telephone Company	York	1905	Home Telephone Co. Ltd.	1912	900
Marmion Telephone Company Limited	Grey	1912	Bell Canada	1963	29
*Marmora Municipal Telephone System	Hastings	1923	Bell Canada	1962	84
Marmora Rural Telephone Company	Hastings	1915	Marmora Mun. Tel. System	1924	13
J. Marsh	Middlesex	1908	Quaker Telephone System	1913	210
Martintown Telephones	Glengarry	1911	Bell Canada	1957	294
Maryborough Telephone Company Limited	Wellington	1908	Union Tel. Co. Ltd.	1913	33
Marysburgh Telephone Company	Prince Edward	1907	Bell Canada	1938	194
George Mason	Parry Sound		Muskoka Independent Telephone System	1921	

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Massey Station Telephone Company Limited	Algoma	1897	Ceased to operate	1928	5
Matchedash Telephone System	Simcoe	1912	North River Municipal Telephone System	1916	40
Mathieu (J. A.) Limited	Rainy River	1922	Not recorded	1955	2
Mattawa Electric Light & Power Co. Ltd.	Nipissing	1936	Bell Canada	1956	3
Mayo Municipal Telephone System	Hastings	1921	Not proceeded with	1922	
McAsh Telephone System	Grey	1896	Tara-Keady Telephone Co.	1913	3
McCreary Telephone Company Limited	Hastings	1906	Bell Canada	1964	368
McEachern Telephone System	Waterloo	1908	Wellesley Mun. Tel. Sys.	1919	91
McFadden (J. J.) Lumber Company	Algoma	1917	Carpenter-Hixon Co. Ltd. Telephone System	1926	8
McFadden Telephone System	Ontario	1908	Bell Canada	1913	12
McGilllicuddy & Zavitz Telephone System	Lambton	1907	Brooke Mun. Tel. System	1915	6
W. G. McGuire	Simcoe	1907	Alke Telephone System	1913	54
McHardy Telephone System	Kent	1910	Bell Canada	1918	26
McKellar Municipal Telephone System	Parry Sound	1921	Bell Canada	1969	237
McKenzie Keward Rural Telephone Assoc.	Grey	1910	Keward Rural Tel. System	1928	18
McKillop, Logan & Hibbert Telephone Co. Ltd.	Perth/Huron	1908	Bell Canada	1968	600
McKillop Municipal Telephone System	Huron	1908	Bell Canada	1968	424
McLean Telephone System	Frontenac	1916	Ceased to operate	1933	9
McNab Telephone Company Limited	Renfrew	1910	Bell Canada	1957	191
Dr. D. G. McNeill	Middlesex	1908	St. Johns' Telephone Sys.	1913	200
Medonte Municipal Telephone System	Simcoe	1911	Bell Canada	1969	571
Medora & Wood Municipal Telephone System	Muskoka	1931	Bell Canada	1956	370
Meek Private Line	Norfolk	1907	Barrett Telephone Assoc.	1915	5

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Melancthon Telephone Company Limited	Dufferin	1910	Bell Canada	1953	43
Mellow's Telephone System	Ontario	1902	Home Tel. Co. Ltd.	1913	9
Melrose Telephone Company Limited	Algoma	1925	Bell Canada	1950	12
Mersea Municipal Telephone System	Essex	1908	Bell Canada	1958	1064
*Metcalfe Telephones Limited	Carleton	1910	Bell Canada	1966	1802
Millard Private Telephone Line	Simcoe	1921	Bell Canada	1944	3
Millbrook Rural Telephone Company Limited	Northumberland & Durham	1916	Docon Telephones Ltd.	1942	251
Mills Telephone System	Oxford	1904	Ingersoll Tel. Co. Ltd.	1924	95
Milton Telephone Company Limited	Halton	1923	Halton Tel. Co. Ltd.	1926	15
Minden Municipal Telephone System	Haliburton	1921	Dysart Mun. Tel. System	1956	368
Minesing Telephone Company Limited	Simcoe	1907	Bell Canada	1964	160
Mink Lake Rural Telephone Company Limited	Renfrew	1915	Davis Telephone System	1952	20
Minto Rural Telephone Company Limited	Wellington	1908	Bell Canada	1959	270
Mississauga River Improvement Co. Ltd.	Algoma	1920	Dept. of Lands & Forests	1937	2
Mississippi Telephone Company Limited	Lanark	1912	Bell Canada	1963	85
Molesworth Independent Telephone Co. Ltd.	Perth/Huron	1909	Bell Canada	1961	134
Monck Municipal Telephone System	Muskoka	1915	Bell Canada	1956	152
Mond Nickel Company Limited	Nipissing	1912	International Nickel Co.	1929	98
Monk Rural Telephone Company Limited	Carleton	1909	Capital Tel. Co. Ltd.	1966	1281
Mono Farmers Telephone Company	Dufferin	1924	Bell Canada	1957	4
Mono Mills Telephone Company Limited	Peel/Simcoe/Dufferin	1908	Bell Canada	1962	212
Montague Centre Rural Telephone Co. Ltd.	Lanark	1925	Bell Canada	1959	32
Monteagle & Herschel Municipal Tel. System	Hastings	1921	Madawaska Valley Tel. Co. Ltd.	1955	91

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Monteith, Dempsey Telephone System	Perth	1910	Bell Canada	1924	87
Montreal (Ontario) Telephone Company Ltd.	Ontario	1919	Bell Canada	1961	40
Montrose Telephone Company	Victoria	1913	Little Britain Telephone Co. Ltd.	1922	14
Moore & Moore Telephone System	Ontario	1898	Home Tel. Co. Ltd.	1920	13
Moore Municipal Telephone System	Lambton	1912	Southern Teleservices Ltd.	1967	2974
Mooresburg & Desboro Telephone Company	Grey	1895	Desboro Mooresburg Tel. Co.	1920	19
Mooresville Telephone Association	Middlesex	1910	Bell Canada	1926	87
Moore Telephone System	Perth	1909	Bell Canada	1913	52
M. C. & R. M. Morgan	Middlesex	1909	Adelaide Telephone System	1913	185
Morley Municipal Telephone System	Rainy River	1919	Bell Canada	1961	125
Morningstar Telephone System	Lambton/Middlesex	1907	Arkona Telephone System	1921	250
Mornington Municipal Telephone System	Perth/Waterloo	1920	In operation	1975	1711
Mornington & Wellesley Telephone Assoc. Ltd.	Perth/Waterloo	1908	Mornington Mun. Tel. Sys.	1920	135
Morrow Telephone Company Limited	Frontenac	1946	North Frontenac Tel. Co. Ltd.	1973	880
Moscow Mutual Telephone Company Limited	Frontenac/Addington	1906	Bell Canada	1970	18
Moscow Rural Telephone Association	Addington	1910	Van Luven Tel. System	1926	50
Mountain Telephone System	Simcoe	1922	Bell Canada	1956	11
Mount Albert Telephone Company Limited	York/Ontario	1906	Bell Canada	1957	1062
Mount Carmel & Centralia Tel. Assoc.	Huron/Middlesex	1899	Centralia & Mount Carmel Telephone Co. Ltd.	1923	45
Mount Forest, Wellington & Grey Telephone Company Limited	Wellington/Grey	1908	Bell Canada	1961	352

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Mount Granite Telephone Company Limited	Algoma	1913	Bell Canada	1950	14
Mount Horeb Telephone Company Limited	Grey	1911	Bell Canada	1964	21
Mount Pleasant Telephone Company	Northumberland	1904	Cramahe Mun. Tel. System	1915	271
Mud Lake Telephone Company Limited	Renfrew	1917	Bell Canada	1964	17
Murray Brighton Telephone Company Limited	Northumberland/Hastings	1912	Austin Telephones Ltd.	1946	379
Muskoka Independent Telephone System	Muskoka/Parry Sound	1907	Muskoka & Parry Sound Tel. System	1924	61
*Muskoka & Parry Sound Telephone Co. Ltd.	Parry Sound	1922	In operation	1975	1245
Muskoka River Telephone Company Limited	Muskoka	1912	Bell Canada	1960	10
Muskoka, Victoria & Haliburton Telephone Co. Ltd.	Muskoka	1912	Bell Canada	1955	45
Muskrat Lake Telephone Company Limited	Renfrew	1913	Bell Canada	1960	15
Mutual Telephone Company Limited	Simcoe	1912	Bell Canada	1938	19
Napanee & Deseronto Rural Telephone System	Lennox & Addington	1912	Bell Canada	1966	565
Nelson Telephone Company Limited	Halton/Wentworth	1907	Bell Canada	1924	235
Newburgh Rural Telephone System	Lennox & Addington	1911	Eastern Community Tel. Co. Ltd.	1960	335
New California Telephone Company Limited	Essex	1908	Bell Canada	1952	75
New Dundee Rural Telephone Company Ltd.	Waterloo/Oxford	1908	Wilmot Mun. Tel. System	1959	271
New Glasgow Telephone Company Limited	Elgin	1909	Bell Canada	1957	166
New Golden Rose Mines Limited		1937	Ceased to operate	1941	7
New Lifford Telephone Line	Durham	1913	Manvers Mun. Tel. System	1922	12
New Union Telephone Company Limited	Wellington	1956	Dunnville Consolidated Telephone Co. Ltd.	1964	912
Niagara District Telephone Company Ltd.	Lincoln	1906	Bell Canada	1906	488

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Nichols Telephone System	Wellington	1908	Bell Canada	1913	
9th Line of Cavan Telephone System	Durham	1917	Manvers Mun. Tel. System	1922	7
Nipissing Municipal Telephone System	Parry Sound	1922	Bell Canada	1956	45
Nipissing Private Telephone Line	Nipissing	1909	Bell Canada	1954	10
Nipissing Telephone Company	Nipissing		Bell Canada	1909	57
Nissouri Telephone Company Limited	Oxford	1907	Ingersoll Tel. Co. Ltd.	1946	256
Noble Telephone System	York	1910	Sutton & North Gwillimbury Tel. Co. Ltd.	1918	6
*Noisy River Telephones Limited	Simcoe	1908	Bell Canada	1956	2245
Norfolk County Telephone Company Limited	Brant/Norfolk/Oxford	1930	Southern Ontario Tel. Co. Ltd.	1930	2054
Norfolk & Tillsonburg Telephone Co. Ltd.	Norfolk/Elgin	1905	Southern Ontario Tel. Co. Ltd.	1947	326
Norland Independent Telephone Co. Ltd.	Victoria	1910	Bell Canada	1949	29
Normanby Telephone Company Limited	Grey	1914	Wightman Tel. Co. Ltd.	1964	18
North Algona Municipal Telephone System	Renfrew	1922	Madawaska Valley Tel. Co. Ltd.	1955	82
North American Telegraph Company	Frontenac	1886	Bell Canada	1910	
North Bonnechere Telephone Assoc. Ltd.	Renfrew	1912	Bell Canada	1954	9
North Brant Telephone Company Limited	Bruce	1908	Bell Canada	1963	26
North Brock Telephone Company Limited	Ontario	1918	Bell Canada	1962	14
North Bruce Telephone System	Grey/Bruce	1909	Alexander Tel. System	1923	155
North Cavan Telephone Company Limited	Durham	1915	Cavan Rural Telephone Company Limited	1949	14
Northcote Farmers Telephone Co. Ltd.	Renfrew	1909	Bell Canada	1955	42
North Eastern Telephone Association	Renfrew	1913	Haley's Station Telephone Co. Ltd.	1925	20

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
North Easthope Municipal Telephone System	Perth/Oxford	1910	Bell Canada	1962	575
North Elderslie Telephone Association	Bruce	1912	Progressive Tel. Co. Ltd.	1924	36
Northern Mutual Telephone Association	Hastings	1914	Beaver Creek Telephone Co. Ltd.	1929	43
Northern Telephone Club	Algoma	1911	Korah Central Telephone Co. Ltd.	1922	15
*Northern Telephone Limited	Cochrane/Timiskaming	1905	In operation	1975	58025
*North Frontenac Telephone Company Limited	Frontenac	1973	In operation	1975	943
North Horton Telephone Association Ltd.	Renfrew	1915	Bell Canada	1954	22
North Huron Telephone Company Limited	Huron/Bruce	1909	Bell Canada	1922	580
North Monck Municipal Telephone System	Muskoka	1924	Bell Canada	1960	66
North Mutual Telephone Line of Cavan	Durham	1912	Manvers Mun. Tel. System	1922	16
*North Norwich Municipal Telephone System	Oxford/Brant	1923	In operation	1975	1385
North Renfrew Telephone Company Limited	Renfrew	1911	In operation	1975	1002
North River Municipal Telephone System	Simcoe	1917	Coldwater Mun. Tel. Sys.	1962	86
North Wellington Telephone Company Ltd.	Wellington	1905	Bell Canada	1960	192
North Wentworth Telephone Company	Wentworth	1910	Bell Canada	1913	
Norwesto Communications Limited	Kenora	1942	Northern Telephone Ltd.	1960	1581
Oak Flats and Verona Rural Telephone Co.	Frontenac	1915	Verona & Frontenac Tel. Co. Ltd.	1920	17
Oakview Telephone Company Limited	Simcoe	1911	Noisy River Tel. Co. Ltd.	1913	6
Oakwood Local Telephone System	Victoria		Mariposa Telephone Union	1919	7
Oakwood Telephone Company Limited	Victoria	1909	In operation	1975	359
Oakwood Village Telephone Line	Victoria		Oakwood Telephone Co. Ltd.	1923	17
O'Connell Rathburn Telephone Co. Ltd.	Ontario	1920	Bell Canada	1938	13

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
O'Connor Municipal Telephone System	Thunder Bay	1922	Fort William Municipal Telephone System	1936	7
Oldfields Telephone Company Limited	Dufferin	1909	Bell Canada	1960	13
Old Lifford Telephone Line	Durham	1913	Manvers Mun. Tel. System	1922	16
Oliver Municipal Telephone System	Thunder Bay	1910	Port Arthur Municipal Telephone System	1963	121
Omamee Telephone Company Limited	Victoria/Durham	1900	Emily Mun. Tel. System	1931	92
Ontario Northland Transportation Commission	Various	1905	In operation	1975	1800
Ontario Telephone Company	Elgin	1906	Bell Canada	1913	
Orono Telephone Company Limited	Durham	1906	Central Community Tel. Co. Ltd.	1963	777
*Oro Telephone Company Limited	Simcoe	1909	Bell Canada	1963	529
Orr-Steinhoff Telephone Association	Grey/Bruce	1908	Progressive Tel. Co. Ltd.	1924	24
Osceola Telephone Association	Renfrew	1913	Cobden Rural Tel. Co. Ltd.	1931	15
Osprey Municipal Telephone System	Grey	1911	Bell Canada	1971	346
*Otonabee Municipal Telephone System	Peterborough	1914	In operation	1975	895
Ottawa Hunt Club Telephone Association Ltd	Carleton	1917	Bell Canada	1918	
Ottawa Valley Rural Telephone Co. Ltd.	Carleton	1911	Bell Canada	1916	69
Owen Sound Telephone Company Limited	Grey	1884			
*Oxford Telephone Company Limited	Oxford	1907	Bell Canada	1971	2942
Paipooonge Municipal Telephone System	Thunder Bay	1909	Fort William Municipal Telephone System	1945	65
Palace Road Telephone Company Limited	Lennox	1911	Napanee & Deseronto Tel. Co. Ltd.	1958	55
Palermo Telephone Association	Halton	1908	Bell Canada	1913	87

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Palestine Telephone Company	Victoria	1914	Cambray Telephone Co.Ltd.	1927	35
Dr. F. Parker	Perth	1907	Tye & Barr Tel. System	1913	153
Park Head Telephone Company Limited	Grey/Bruce	1911	Bell Canada	1964	37
Parkhill Arkona Telephones Limited	Lambton/Middlesex	1921	Bell Canada and People's Tel. Co. of Forest Ltd.	1957	343
Parkhill Rural Telephone Company Limited	Middlesex	1909	Parkhill Arkona Tel. Ltd.	1922	200
Parkinson & Kynoch Telephone Co. Ltd.	Algoma	1928	Bell Canada	1962	24
Passmore-Fowler Telephone Line	Nipissing	1915	Bell Canada	1924	12
Pastime Telephone Association	Renfrew	1913	Cobden Rural Telephone Co. Ltd.	1931	15
Paul & Eckert Telephone System	Perth	1898	Sebringville Tel. System	1916	280
Peabody Telephone Association	Grey	1914	Victory Tel. Co. Ltd.	1920	17
Peerless Telephone Association	Victoria	1912	Little Britain Telephone Co. Ltd.	1922	12
Peerless Telephone Company Limited	Oxford	1909	Bell Canada	1927	9
Pefferslaw Telephone System Ltd.	Ontario/York	1911	Bell Canada	1967	620
Pelée Island Municipal Telephone System	Essex	1913	Bell Canada	1968	187
Pembroke & Mud Lake Telephone Co. Ltd.	Renfrew	1921	Bell Canada	1954	10
Penhurst Telephone Company Limited	Oxford	1908	Oxford Telephone Co. Ltd.	1949	10
People's Mutual Telephone Company Ltd.	Prince Edward	1907	Bell Canada	1946	287
Peoples Telephone Company	Hastings	1900	Monteagle & Herschel Municipal Tel. System	1922	
People's Telephone Co. of London Limited		1898			
People's Telephone & Telegraph Co. Ltd.	Renfrew/Hastings	1905	Madawaska Valley Tel. Co. Ltd.	1955	229
*People's Telephone Co. of Forest Ltd.	Lambton	1906	In operation	1975	3210

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Percy Municipal Telephone System	Northumberland	1915	Bell Canada	1968	497
Perreton Telephone Association		1911	North Renfrew Telephone Co. Ltd.	1922	21
*Perry Telephone System	Lennox & Addington	1916	Newburgh Rural Tel. Sys. Napane & Deseronto Tel. System; Perry Telephone System; Adolphustown Rural Tel. System	1942	470
Perth & Christies Lake Telephone Co. Ltd.	Lanark	1911	Bell Canada	1962	149
Petawawa Rural Telephone Company Limited	Renfrew	1923	Bell Canada	1953	35
Pine Grove Telephone Association Limited	Simcoe	1910	Bell Canada	1946	17
Pine Valley Telephone Company Limited	Renfrew	1912	Davis Tel. Co. Ltd.	1956	38
Pioneer Rural Telephone Company Limited	Nipissing	1913	Not recorded	1916	92
Pioneer Telephone Company Limited	Oxford	1909	Bell Canada	1928	33
Plane Settlement Telephone Company Ltd.	Hastings	1918	Bell Canada	1949	13
Pleasant Valley Telephone Company Ltd.	Lennox	1912	Bell Canada	1969	46
Pleasant View Telephone Company Limited	Grey	1915	Bell Canada	1965	10
Plevna Telephone System	Frontenac	1960	Kaladar & Northern Tel. System	1962	53
Plum Hollow & Elويد Independent Telephone Company Limited	Leeds	1909	Bell Canada	1958	466
Plummer Additional and Lefroy Municipal Telephone System	Algoma	1950	Bell Canada	1956	68
Plummer, Aberdeen & Galbraith Rural Telephone Association Ltd.	Algoma	1914	Bell Canada	1955	53
Point Mara Telephone Company Ltd.	Ontario	1920	Bell Canada	1961	26
Point Pelee Government Telephone Line	Essex	1917	Mersea Mun. Tel. System	1917	
Pontypool Telephone Company Limited	Durham	1911	Manvers Mun. Tel. System	1927	43

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Porcupine Power & Telephone Company	Cochrane	1911	Northern Tel. Co. Ltd.	1928	994
Port Arthur Municipal Telephone System	Thunder Bay	1902	Thunder Bay Tel. Dept.	1969	25193
W. W. Porte	Northumberland	1905	Mt. Pleasant Tel. System	1909	49
Port Hoover Telephone Association	Victoria	1910	Little Britain Telephone Co. Ltd.	1922	17
*Port Hope Telephone Company Limited	Durham	1899	Bell Canada	1968	1877
Portland Rural Telephone Company	Frontenac	1913	Ceased to operate	1924	10
Port Rowan & Rural Telephone Company Ltd.	Norfolk	1910	South Norfolk Telephone Co. Ltd.	1920	200
Port Stanley Telephone Company Limited	Elgin	1911	Ceased to operate	1921	45
Prescott Rural Telephone Company Limited	Prescott	1915	Bell Canada	1961	90
Prince Municipal Telephone System	Algoma	1913	Mt. Granite Tel. Co. Ltd.	1920	13
Princeton & Drumbo Telephone Company Ltd.	Oxford	1907	Oxford Telephone Co. Ltd.	1947	600
Progressive Agriculturists' Tel. System	Algoma	1909	Korah Central Telephone Co. Ltd.	1922	13
Progressive Telephone Association	Welland	1906	Not recorded	1917	80
Progressive Telephone Company Limited	Bruce	1923	Dobbinton Tel. Co. Ltd.	1950	76
A. J. Provencher	Timiskaming	1923	Ceased to operate	1931	4
Provincial Long Distance Telephone Co. Ltd.	Welland	1906	Not recorded		
Purbrook & Fraserburg Telephone Co. Ltd.	Muskoka	1919	Bell Canada	1953	27
Quaker Telephone System	Middlesex	1908	Coldstream Tel. System	1920	255
Queen's Line Telephone Association	Renfrew	1910	Queen's Line Telephone Co. Ltd.	1922	19
Queen's Line Telephone Association No. 2	Renfrew	1913	Queen's Line Telephone Co. Ltd.	1922	17

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Queen's Line Telephone Association No. 3	Renfrew	1913	Queen's Line Telephone Co. Ltd.	1922	6
Queen's Line Telephone Company Limited	Renfrew	1922	Bell Canada	1960	45
Quinlan Telephone System	Perth	1908	Bell Canada	1926	116
Radcliffe Municipal Telephone System	Renfrew	1922	Madawaska Valley Tel. Co. Ltd.	1955	27
Raglan Municipal Telephone System	Renfrew	1922	Madawaska Valley Tel. Co. Ltd.	1955	81
Railton Rural Telephone Line	Frontenac	1905	Bell Canada	1961	2
Rainy River International Telephone Co. Ltd.	Rainy River	1905	Ceased to operate	1926	106
Rainy River Municipal Telephone System	Rainy River	1920	Bell Canada	1958	245
Rama Mara Telephone Company Limited	Ontario	1923	Bell Canada	1947	12
Rankin Telephone Company	Renfrew	1910	Davis Telephone System	1942	316
Ratter and Dunnet Municipal Tel. System	Sudbury	1916	Dunnet Mun. Tel. System	1917	10
Ravenscliffe Telephone Company Limited	Muskoka	1912	Bell Canada	1955	63
Raymond Telephone Association	Muskoka	1915	Watt Mun. Tel. System	1916	
Redden Telephone Company Limited	Addington	1920	Eastern Community Tel. Co. Ltd.	1960	164
Red Lake Telephone Company Limited	Kenora	1942	Norwesto Communications Ltd.	1956	504
Reid Telephone System	Renfrew	1906	Ceased to operate	1919	5
Renfrew & Shamrock Telephone Assoc. Ltd.	Renfrew	1913	Bell Canada	1954	16
Richard's Landing Municipal Telephone Club	Algoma	1910	St. Joseph's Island Mun. Telephone System	1948	36
Richardson Bros.	Nipissing	1909	Nipissing Private Line	1913	5
Rideau View Telephone Association	Carleton	1910	Bell Canada	1915	13

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Riverdale Rural Telephone Association	Lennox	1912	Bell Canada	1961	21
Riverside Telephone Company Limited	Oxford	1912	Bell Canada	1938	9
Riverview Telephone Company Limited	Ontario	1924	Bell Canada	1962	9
Robinson Rural Telephone Company Limited	Manitoulin	1911	Bell Canada	1972	41
Roche Fondue Rural Telephone Association	Renfrew	1912	North Renfrew Telephone Co. Ltd.	1922	20
Rochester Municipal Telephone System	Essex	1907	Bell Canada	1968	1627
Rocktown Telephone Company Limited	Dufferin	1912	Bell Canada	1953	42
Rockwood & Oustic Telephone Company Ltd.	Wellington	1907	Thedford, Arkona & East Lambton Tel. Co. Ltd.	1950	82
Roddick & Crozier Telephone Company Ltd.	Rainy River	1918	Alberton Mun. Tel. Syst.	1923	15
R. C. Episcopal Corporation of Kingston	Lennox & Addington	1912	Bell Canada	1970	1
Romney Telephone System	Kent	1907	Bell Canada	1952	20
A. Ronald Telephone Company	Simcoe	1907	Bell Canada	1964	
Rosedale Rural Telephone Association	Victoria	1908	Fenelon Falls Rural Tel. Co. Ltd.	1926	22
Rosedale Rural Telephone Company Limited	Frontenac	1912	Bell Canada	1954	21
Rose Telephone Company Limited	Algoma	1915	Bell Canada	1956	15
Rose Telephone Line	Victoria	1911	Oakwood Tel. Co. Ltd.	1923	8
Roseville Rural Telephone Company Ltd.	Lanark	1922	Bell Canada	1959	22
Ross Telephone System	Renfrew	1910	Guest Bros. Tel. System	1913	9
Rosseau Independent Telephone System	Muskoka/Parry Sound	1916	Humphrey Mun. Tel. Sys.	1923	94
Roxborough Telephone Company Limited	Glengarry/Stormont	1911	In operation	1975	378
Rox Telephone Company Limited	Renfrew	1914	Bell Canada	1960	11
Roy Telephone System	Sudbury	1914	Dunnet Mun. Tel. System	1916	5
Ruby Telephone Company Limited	Renfrew	1929	Bell Canada	1962	11

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Runney Settlement Telephone Company Ltd.	Victoria	1919	Bell Canada	1939	14
Rural Telephone Company of Kitley Ltd.	Leeds & Grenville	1907	Lewis Telephone System	1959	274
Rural Union Telephone Association	Renfrew	1912	Acorn Rural Union Tel. Association	1918	21
Russell Rural Telephone Company Limited	Carleton/Prescott/Russell	1911	Cumberland Municipal Telephone System	1933	291
Russell Telephone System	Northumberland/Durham/Peterborough	1906	South Monaghan Municipal Telephone System	1928	110
Rutherglen Rural Telephone Company Ltd.	Nipissing	1919	Bell Canada	1956	25
Rydal Bank-Plummer Telephone Company Ltd.	Algoma	1915	Ceased to operate	1939	10
Ryde Municipal Telephone System	Muskoka	1922	Bell Canada	1955	80
Saginaw Telephone Company Limited	Ontario	1916	Bell Canada	1957	11
Salem Telephone Company Limited	Durham	1909	Bell Canada	1937	8
Salem Telephone Line	Victoria	1908	Oakwood Tel. Co. Ltd.	1923	18
Salkeld Telephone System	Huron	1910	Bell Canada	1927	7
Sandwich South Municipal Telephone System	Essex	1910	Bell Canada	1957	484
Sandwich West Co-operative Telephone Company Limited	Essex	1909	Bell Canada	1925	126
Sauble Falls Telephone Company Limited	Bruce	1910	Bell Canada	1965	21
Saugeen Rural Telephone Company Limited	Bruce	1911	Bell Canada	1963	13
Saugeen Telephone Association	Bruce	1910	Brant Telephone Co. Ltd.	1918	6
Scarborough Telephone Company Limited	York	1905	Bell Canada	1940	390
Schomberg Telephone Company Limited	York/Simcoe	1910	Woodbridge & Vaughan Telephone Co. Ltd.	1948	317
Scotch Corners Telephone Company	Lanark	1915	Lanark & Ramsay Telephone Co. Ltd.	1923	16

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Scone Telephone System	Grey/Bruce	1913	Victory Tel. Co. Ltd.	1920	8
Scotch Line & Stanleyville Telephone Company Limited	Lanark	1910	Bell Canada	1961	97
Scratch & Palmer Telephone System	Essex	1906	Bell Canada	1953	8
Seagrave Telephone Line	Victoria	1913	Manilla Union Telephone Co. Ltd.	1924	20
Sebright Telephone Company Limited	Ontario	1913	Bell Canada	1971	189
Sebringville Telephone Company Limited	Perth	1898	Blanshard Mun. Tel. Sys.	1928	385
Second Line Drummond Telephone Co. Ltd.	Lanark	1914	Bell Canada	1962	41
Section Telephone System	Essex	1907	Bell Canada	1947	8
Selby Telephone Company Limited	Lennox	1913	Perry Telephone System	1926	114
Shakespeare Telephone Company Limited	Sudbury	1918	Ceased to operate	1932	4
Shamrock & Renfrew Telephone Company Ltd.	Renfrew	1913	Renfrew & Shamrock Tel. Line	1920	9
Shamrock Telephone Company	Victoria	1908	Little Britain Telephone Co. Ltd.	1922	17
Sharbot Lake & Parham Telephone System	Frontenac	1946	Morrow Tel. Co. Ltd.	1956	172
C. O. Shaw	Muskoka	1907	Huntsville & Portage Telephone System	1913	28
Shelburne-Melancthon Telephone Line	Dufferin	1910	Melancthon Tel. Assoc.	1914	10
Sherwood Municipal Telephone System	Renfrew	1922	Madawaska Valley Tel. Co. Ltd.	1955	62
Shuniah Municipal Telephone System	Thunder Bay	1911	Port Arthur Municipal Tel. System	1953	80
Sidney Telephone Company Limited	Hastings	1924	Bell Canada	1939	37
Silcote Telephone Company Limited	Grey	1912	Bell Canada	1957	41
Silver Creek Telephone Company Limited	Bruce	1913	Bell Canada	1964	22

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Sioux Lookout Telephone Company Limited	Kenora	1932	Bell Canada	1956	785
Sisson's Telephone System	Durham	1899	Manvers Mun. Tel. System	1922	17
Sitzer Telephone System	Halton	1911	Cooper Telephone System	1919	9
Skipness Telephone Company	Bruce	1909	Allenford Rural Tel. Co. Ltd.	1917	41
Slate River Municipal Telephone System	Thunder Bay	1909	Fort William Municipal Tel. System	1945	65
Snake River Telephone Company Limited	Renfrew	1911	Bell Canada	1960	50
Sombra Township Telephone Association	Lambton	1908	Moore Mun. Tel. System	1913	
Somerville Municipal Telephone System	Victoria	1926	Ceased to operate	1942	27
Sonya Telephone Line	Victoria/Ontario	1914	Manilla Union Telephone Co. Ltd.	1924	33
South Algona Municipal Telephone System	Renfrew	1923	Ceased to operate	1943	13
South Algona Telephone Company Limited	Renfrew	1927	Bell Canada	1963	19
South Bayham & Malahide Telephone Co. Ltd.	Elgin	1905	South Malahide Telephone Co. Ltd.	1913	43
South Brant Rural Telephone Company Ltd.	Bruce	1910	Bell Canada	1953	28
South Bruce Rural Telephone Company Ltd.	Bruce/Huron	1910	In operation	1975	1923
South Colchester Telephone Company Ltd.	Essex	1909	Bell Canada	1953	10
South Crosby Rural Telephone Company Ltd.	Leeds & Grenville	1909	Central Community Tel. Co. Ltd.	1969	600
South Diagonal Telephone Company Limited	Grey	1911	Bell Canada	1959	160
South Elderslie Telephone Company Ltd.	Bruce	1911	Bell Canada	1963	35
*Southern Ontario Telephone Company Ltd.	Haldimand/Brant/ Norfolk/Oxford	1930	Bell Canada	1950	7236
Southern Teleservices Ltd.	Lambton	1967	Bell Canada	1968	2974

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
South Gosfield Telephone Company	Essex	1909	Bell Canada	1920	129
South Huron Telephone Company Limited	Huron	1910	Hay Mun. Tel. System	1911	138
South Janetville Telephone Company Ltd.	Durham	1913	Manvers Mun. Tel. System	1953	19
South Lambton Telephone Company Limited	Middlesex/Lambton	1907	Lambton Telephone Co. Ltd.	1911	168
South Leeds & Pittsburg Telephone Co. Ltd.	Leeds/Frontenac	1908	Bell Canada	1959	385
South Malahide & Bayham Telephone Co. Ltd.	Elgin	1905	South Malahide Telephone Co. Ltd.	1913	43
South Malahide & Burwell Telephone Co.	Elgin	1902	South Malahide Telephone Co. Ltd.	1913	
South Malahide Telephone Company Limited	Elgin	1905	Aylmer & Malahide Tel. Co. Ltd.	1928	960
South Manvers Telephone Association	Durham	1917	Manvers Station Tel. Line	1920	14
South McNaughton Telephone Company Ltd.	Renfrew	1911	Bell Canada	1954	13
South Monaghan Municipal Telephone System	Northumberland/Durham	1929	Bell Canada and Port Hope Telephone Company	1962	258
South Norfolk Telephone Company Limited	Norfolk	1919	Southern Ontario Tel. Co. Ltd.	1930	268
South Plantagenet Rural Telephone Co. Ltd.	Prescott	1915	Bell Canada	1961	150
*Southwald & Dunwich Telephone Assoc. Ltd.	Elgin	1906	Bell Canada	1964	440
South Walsingham Telephone Company Ltd.	Norfolk	1917	Southern Ontario Tel. Co. Ltd.	1937	20
*Sparrow Lake Private Telephone Line	Muskoka	1908	Bell Canada	1959	10
Sparta Rural Telephone Company Limited	Elgin	1910	Bell Canada	1958	230
Spence & Monteith Telephone Company Ltd.	Parry Sound	1923	Ceased to operate	1961	6
Spey River Telephone Company Limited	Grey	1913	Bell Canada	1963	14
Sprague Telephone System	Prince Edward	1902	Bell Canada	1954	676

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Springbank Telephone Company Limited	Huron	1909	Howick Mun. Tel. System	1923	123
Spring Creek Telephone Company	Bruce	1910	Sauble Falls Rural Tel. Co.	1926	20
Spring Creek Telephone Company Limited	Oxford	1909	Innerkip Rural Telephone Co. Ltd.	1944	12
Standard Chemical Company Limited	Parry Sound	1928	Bell Canada	1954	3
Standard Telephone Company Limited	Algoma	1946	Bell Canada	1950	6
Stanhope Municipal Telephone System	Halliburton	1921	Dysart Mun. Tel. System	1956	127
St. Clair Telephone Company	Lambton	1909	Moore Mun. Tel. System	1913	99
St. John's Telephone System	Middlesex	1908	Bell Canada	1925	283
St. Joseph Island Municipal Tel. System	Algoma	1932	Bell Canada	1967	324
St. Joseph's Island Telephone Company	Algoma	1910	"B" Line Telephone Assoc.	1918	3
St. Joseph Island Telephone Company Ltd.	Algoma	1907	St. Joseph Mun. Tel. Sys.	1930	84
St. Mary's, Kirkton & Exeter Telephone Co. Ltd.	Perth/Oxford/ Middlesex	1906	St. Mary's, Medina and Kirkton Tel. Co. Ltd.	1916	440
St. Mary's, Medina & Kirkton Telephone Co. Ltd.	Perth/Huron/ Middlesex	1916	Blanshard Mun. Tel. Sys.	1924	1199
St. Mary's-Medina Telephone Co. Ltd.	Oxford/Middlesex/ Perth	1907	St. Mary's, Medina and Kirkton Tel. Co. Ltd.	1916	143
Stormont Telephone Company	Stormont	1908	Bell Canada	1957	110
Stratton Telephone Company	Rainy River	1907	Morley Mun. Tel. System	1919	54
Strong Municipal Telephone System	Parry Sound	1923	Bell Canada	1955	68
*Stroud Telephone Company Limited	Simcoe	1911	Bell Canada	1964	702
St. Vincent Municipal Telephone System	Grey	1910	Bell Canada	1968	527
St. Williams & Forestville Telephone Co.	Norfolk	1907	Port Rowan & Rural Tel. Co.	1913	30

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Sudbury-Chelmsford Telephone System	Sudbury	1910	Chelmsford Tel. System	1916	24
Sullivan & Bentinck Telephone Company Ltd.	Bruce	1911	Bell Canada	1963	21
Sullivan & Elderslie Telephone Co. Ltd.	Bruce	1911	Bell Canada	1963	18
Sunderland Telephone Company Limited	Ontario	1908	Dunnville Consolidated Telephone Co. Ltd.	1964	487
Sunny Valley Telephone Company Limited	Grey	1911	Bell Canada	1963	16
Sunshine Telephone Line	Victoria	1909	Oakwood Tel. Co. Ltd.	1923	15
Superior Telephone System	Algoma	1917	Bell Canada	1950	8
Suroff Telephone System	Grey	1920	Bentinck Mun. Tel. Sys.	1950	206
Sutton & North Swillimbury Telephone Co. Ltd.	York	1906	Bell Canada	1926	193
Cecil Swale Telephone System	Bruce	1908	Bell Canada	1958	36
Sydenham Union Telephone Company Limited	Grey	1911	Bell Canada	1965	30
Tamarack Telephone Line	Welland	1893	Farmers Mutual Tel. Co.	1904	2
Tamworth and Enterprise Telephone System	Addington		Redden Telephone Co. Ltd.	1921	43
Tamworth Telephone System	Lennox & Addington	1916	Enterprise Tel. System	1917	43
Tara-Keady Telephone Company Limited	Grey	1912	Bell Canada	1963	33
Tarbutt Municipal Telephone System	Algoma	1912	Bell Canada	1962	65
Tarentorus Telephone Company Limited	Algoma	1910	Bell Canada	1932	25
Tay Municipal Telephone System	Simcoe	1910	Bell Canada	1968	617
Taylor Telephone Company Limited	Bruce	1899	In operation	1975	1214
Telontario Incorporated	Essex	1972	In operation	1975	2517
Temiskaming & N. Ontario Railway Commission	Timiskaming	1905	Ontario Northland Transportation Commission	1945	153
Temiskaming Telephone Company Limited	Timiskaming	1905	Northern Tel. Co. Ltd.	1927	2849

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Tenth Concession Alice & Fraser Telephone Co. Ltd.	Renfrew	1923	Bell Canada	1954	38
Tenth Line of Cavan Telephone System	Durham	1915	Manvers Mun. Tel. System	1922	8
Thames Road Telephone System	Huron	1907	Bell Canada	1969	150
Thamesville Telephone Company Limited	Kent/Lambton	1909	Bell Canada	1970	1697
Thedford, Arkona & East Lambton Telephone Co. Ltd.	Lambton	1909	Hurontario Tel. Limited	1950	333
Thessalon Municipal Telephone System	Algoma	1914	Ansonia & Thessalon Municipal Tel. System	1935	90
Dr. H. S. Thompson	Waterloo	1913	Not recorded	1914	8
Thorah Telephone Association	Ontario	1909	Centre Thorah Tel. Assoc.	1920	9
Thunder Bay Telephone Company Limited	Thunder Bay	1939	Long Lac Telephones Ltd.	1944	96
*Thunder Bay Telephone Department	Thunder Bay	1970	In operation	1975	69586
Tichborne Telephone Company Limited	Frontenac	1919	Morrow Telephone Co. Ltd.	1966	25
Tilbury East Municipal Telephone System	Kent	1917	Bell Canada	1966	613
Tilbury Telephone Company Limited	Kent	1909	Tilbury East Mun. Tel. System	1918	250
Tilbury West Municipal Telephone System	Essex	1911	Bell Canada	1961	843
Tiny Municipal Telephone System	Simcoe	1922	Bell Canada	1968	250
Todd & Darling Telephone System	Ontario/York	1906	Ceased to operate	1917	20
Toronto Telephone Despatch Company (Ltd.)	York	1879	Bell Canada	1881	13
Town Line Brant & Elderslie Telephone Association	Bruce	1910	Bell Canada	1963	13
Town Line & Seventh Line Telephone Assoc.	Renfrew	1912	North Renfrew Telephone Co. Ltd.	1922	10
Town Line Telephone Association of Stafford & Pembroke Ltd.	Renfrew	1917	Bell Canada	1954	17

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Trout Creek Logging Company	Parry Sound	1914	Dominion Wood & Lumber Co. Ltd.	1918	7
Tuckersmith Municipal Telephone System	Huron/Perth	1909	In operation	1975	2002
Turner's Telephone System	Northumberland/ Durham	1902	Millbrook Rural Telephone Co. Ltd.	1916	117
Tye & Barr Telephone System	Perth	1907	Mornington Mun. Tel. Sys.	1920	153
Tyendinaga Municipal Telephone System	Hastings	1918	Bell Canada	1962	202
Udney Telephone Company Limited	Ontario	1915	Bell Canada	1961	109
Uhthoff Telephone Company Limited	Simcoe	1912	Bell Canada	1947	102
Unger Telephone Company Limited	Norfolk	1909	Ceased to operate	1950	11
Union Telephone Club	Grey	1911	Sydenham Union Telephone Co. Ltd.	1918	19
Union Telephone Company	York	1909	Woodbridge & Vaughan Tel. Co. Ltd.	1909	50
Union Telephone Company Limited	Wellington	1909	New Union Tel. Co. Ltd.	1955	494
United Telephone Company Limited	Middlesex	1908	London Township Mun. Tel. System	1923	264
Upper Admaston Rural Telephone Company Ltd	Renfrew	1917	Davis Tel. Co. Ltd.	1957	17
Uptergrove Telephone Company Limited	Ontario	1914	Bell Canada	1939	11
Urban & Rural Telephone Company Limited	Kent/Middlesex/ Lambton	1910	Bell Canada	1951	702
Uxbridge & Scott Telephone Company Ltd.	Ontario	1907	Home Telephone Co. Ltd.	1922	291
Valentia Telephone Company	Victoria	1910	Little Britain Telephone Co. Ltd.	1922	20
Valley Farm Private Telephone Line	Parry Sound	1919	Bell Canada	1951	8
Van Luven Telephone System	Addington	1910	Ceased to operate	1930	6

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX I

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Van Norman Telephone System	Sudbury	1927	Dennie Telephone System	1948	10
Verner Telephone System	Nipissing	1912	Not recorded	1930	6
Vernonville Rural Telephone System	Northumberland	1913	Haldimand Mun. Tel. Sys.	1916	37
Verona & Bellrock Telephone Company Ltd.	Frontenac	1916	Bell Canada	1962	36
Verona-Echo Lake Telephone Company	Frontenac	1917	Verona & Frontenac Tel. Co. Ltd.	1920	25
Verona & Frontenac Telephone Company Ltd.	Frontenac	1919	Bell Canada	1961	165
Vespra Municipal Telephone System	Simcoe	1913	Bell Canada	1956	172
Vesta Telephone Company Limited	Bruce	1924	Bell Canada	1963	19
Victoria Rural Telephone Company Limited	Sudbury	1918	Bell Canada	1963	50
Victory Telephone Company Limited	Grey/Bruce	1920	Bell Canada	1963	93
Village Telephone Association	Bruce	1915	Not recorded	1917	14
Violet Hill Telephone Company Limited	Dufferin	1910	Bell Canada	1953	11
Wait Telephone System	Northumberland	1913	Vernonville Rural Tel. System	1914	37
Wallacetown & Lakeshore Telephone Assoc. Ltd.	Elgin	1910	Bell Canada	1964	320
Walsingham Centre & Port Rowan Telephone Co. Ltd.	Norfolk	1908	Southern Ontario Tel. Co. Ltd.	1937	16
Waterloo Municipal Telephone System	Waterloo	1912	Bell Canada	1958	440
Watt Municipal Telephone System	Muskoka	1916	Bell Canada	1960	310
Webster & Falls Telephone Line	Victoria	1904	Oakwood Tel. Co. Ltd.	1923	8
Weidenhammer Rural Telephone Company	Waterloo	1909	Dr. H. S. Thompson	1913	8
Welland County Telephone Company Ltd.	Welland	1906	Bell Canada	1955	6255
Wellesley Municipal Telephone System	Perth/Waterloo	1919	Bell Canada	1963	1052

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Wentworth Telephone Company	Wentworth	1907	Bell Canada	1913	150
West Campbell & Mills Telephone Co. Ltd.	Manitoulin	1917	Bell Canada	1971	32
West Flamborough Telephone Company	Wentworth	1908	Bell Canada	1916	17
West Garafraxa Telephone Co-op. Assoc. Ltd.	Dufferin/Wellington	1906	Bell Canada	1960	132
West Lake Telephone Company Limited	Sudbury	1918	Bell Canada	1952	10
Westmeath & Beachburg Telephone Assoc.	Renfrew	1911	North Renfrew Telephone Co. Ltd.	1922	60
Westmeath Seventh Line Telephone Co. Ltd.	Renfrew	1911	North Renfrew Telephone Co. Ltd.	1924	16
Westmeath Telephone Association No. 1	Renfrew	1911	Beachburg Rural Tel. Co. Ltd.	1918	32
Westport Telephone Company Limited	Frontenac/Leeds & Grenville	1913	In operation	1975	813
West Tay Municipal Telephone System	Simcoe	1923	Bell Canada	1956	47
West Williams Rural Telephone Assoc. Ltd.	Middlesex	1910	Falkirk Community Tel. Co. Ltd.	1960	174
Wheatley Telephone Company Limited	Kent/Essex	1908	Bell Canada	1929	375
White Marble Company of Canada Limited	Renfrew	1914	Not recorded	1919	2
White Star Telephone Line	Victoria	1909	Oakwood Tel. Co. Ltd.	1923	18
Whitestone & Deer Lake Telephone Line	Parry Sound	1921	Ceased to operate	1946	10
White Telephone System, Limited	Essex	1907	Mersea Mun. Tel. System	1946	27
Wiarton-Lake Charles Telephone Association	Grey	1908	Lake Charles Telephone Co. Ltd.	1920	48
Widdifield Municipal Telephone System	Nipissing	1915	Bell Canada	1952	60
*Wightman Telephone Limited	Huron/Wellington/Grey/Bruce	1909	In operation	1975	2739

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Wilberforce Rural Telephone Company Ltd.	Renfrew	1913	Davis Tel. Co. Ltd.	1959	27
Willowdale Rural Telephone Company Ltd.	Carleton	1911	Bell Canada	1913	1304
*Wilnot Municipal Telephone System	Waterloo/Perth	1922	Bell Canada	1967	6
Wilson Private Line	Halton	1906	Hepburn Private Line	1920	14
Windham Telephone Company	Norfolk	1912	Southern Ontario Tel. Co. Ltd.	1937	25
Winlaw Telephone Company	Nipissing	1912	Temiskaming Tel. Co.	1916	7
Winter Private Telephone Line	York	1907	Bell Canada	1926	104
Wolford Rural Telephone Company Limited	Grenville	1909	Bell Canada	1961	20
Wolftown Telephone Company Limited	Renfrew	1913	Bell Canada	1960	136
Wollaston Rural Telephone System	Hastings/Peterboro	1940	Bell Canada	1967	6904
*Woodbridge & Vaughan Telephone Company Ltd.	York	1910	Bell Canada	1951	37
Woodford Telephone Company Limited	Grey	1912	Bell Canada	1957	36
Woodville Glen Telephone Company Limited	Victoria	1910	Bell Canada	1961	49
Worthington Municipal Telephone System	Rainy River	1920	Bell Canada	1959	456
Wroxeter Rural Telephone Company Limited	Huron	1909	Wightman Tel. System	1966	9
Yarker Telephone Company Limited	Lennox & Addington	1921	Yarker Rural Telephone Co. Ltd.	1955	142
Yarker Rural Telephone Company Limited	Lennox & Addington	1911	Eastern Community Tel. Co. Ltd.	1963	193
Yarmouth Rural Telephone Company Limited	Elgin	1908	Aylmer & Malahide Tel. Co. Ltd.	1963	138
E. Zeller	Huron	1906	South Huron Telephone Co. Ltd.	1910	16
Zion Line Telephone Association Limited	Renfrew	1912	Bell Canada	1960	

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

APPENDIX 1

NAME	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	YEAR ESTAB.	TAKEN OVER BY	YEAR	NUMBER PHONES
Zion Telephone Line	Victoria	1910	Little Britain Telephone Co. Ltd.	1922	21
Zion & Wolsley Telephone Company Ltd.	Grey	1920	Bell Canada	1964	30
Zorra Telephone Company Limited	Oxford	1906	Bell Canada	1929	165

* See Chapter V for a brief history of this System.

Patent Office No. 18549
Dept. Justice No. 4242

APPENDIX II

307

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

In the matter of Application of

Alexander Graham Bell

for Patent of Invention of

*Bell's System of
Telephony*

*The said Patent has been examined by the Minister of Justice,
who now certifies that it is conformable to law.*

Dated the 22^o day of Aug 1877.

John D. Stearns
for D.M.J.

To the Honorable

The Commissioner of Patents,

& C., & C., & C.,

To the Commissioners of Patents, Ottawa:

The undersigned Alexander Graham Bell, of the City of Boston, in the County of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, one of the United States of America, Professor, hereby appoints George William Gregory of said City of Boston, his attorney, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute an application for a Patent for new and useful improvements on electric telephony; to sign the drawings, to receive the Patent, and to transact all business in the Patent Office, connected therewith.

Signed at Boston, this thirty first day of July, One thousand eight hundred and seventy seven.

In the presence of

R. L. Roberts	} Alexander Graham Bell
G. W. Gregory	

To the Commissioners of Patents, Ottawa.

The petition of Alexander Graham Bell, of the City of Boston, in the County of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, one of the United States of America, Professor, sheweth.

That he hath invented new and useful improvements on electric telephony, not known or used by others before his invention thereof, and not being in public use or on sale for more than one year previous to his application in Canada with his consent or allowance as such inventor, the title or name whereof is Bell's System of Telephony.

Your petitioner therefore prays that a Patent may be granted to him for the said invention, and, for the purposes of the Patent Act of 1872, your petitioner elects his domicile in the City of Ottawa, Province of Ontario.

Alexander Graham Bell

Boston 31st July, 1877

110

United States of America }
State of Massachusetts. } ss.
County of Suffolk }

I, Alexander Graham Bell
resident in the City of Boston, in the County of
Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, one of the
United States of America, Professor, make oath
and swear that I verily believe that I am the
first inventor of new and useful improvements
on electric telephony, described and claimed
in the annexed Specification, and for which
I solicit a Patent by my petition dated
31st July, 1877. And I further make oath that
the several allegations contained in the said
petition are respectively true and correct.

Alexander Graham Bell

Sworn before me at Boston
this thirty first day of July, one thousand
eight hundred and seventy seven.

Robert L. Roberts
Notary Public

August 22, 1877

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, Alexander Graham Bell, of the City of Boston, in the County of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, Professor, have invented certain new and useful improvements on electric telephony, and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear and exact description of the same.

This invention relates to improvements on electric telephony, and consists in the union upon, and by means of, an electric circuit, of two or more instruments so constructed that if motion of any kind or form be produced in any way, in the armature of any one of the said instruments, the armature of all the other instruments upon the same circuit will be moved in like manner and form; and if such motion be produced in the former by sound, like sound will be produced by the motion of the latter.

Also, in a system of electric telegraphy or telephony, consisting of transmitting and receiving instruments united upon an electric circuit, the production, in the armature of each receiving instrument, of any given motion, by subjecting said armature to an attraction varying in intensity, in such manner as to throw the armature into that form of vibration that characterizes the given sound or sounds.

Also, in the combination with an electro-magnet, of a plate of iron, or steel, or other material capable of inductive action, which can be thrown into vibration by the movement of surrounding air, or by the attraction of a magnet.

Also, in the formation in an electric telephone such as is herein shown and described, of a magnet with a coil upon the end or ends of the magnet nearest the plate.

Also, in the combination with an electric telephone such as described, of a sounding-box substantially as herein shown and set forth.

Also, in the combination with an electric telephone substantially as herein described, the employment of a speaking or hearing tube, for conveying sounds to or from the telephone, substantially as set forth.

Also, in a system of electric telephony, of a permanent magnet having coils upon its end or ends, in combination with a plate of iron, or steel or other material capable of inductive action, substantially as set forth.

In the system of telephony herein described, two or more musical notes or telegraphic signals may be made to travel along a single wire, in either or both directions, with a single battery for the whole circuit and each instrument is adapted to receive all the notes.

By means of this invention, articulate speech and sounds of every

kind, whether musical or not, may be transmitted electrically.

Musical notes, articulate speech, or sounds of any kind may be transmitted over a wire without a voltaic battery.

Figure 1, is a perspective view of one form of electric telephone.

Figure 2, is a vertical section.

Figure 3, a plan view of the same.

Figure 4, is a diagram illustrating the arrangement of telephones upon circuit.

Figure 5, is a diagram illustrating the arrangement of another form of telephone upon circuit, and to be used without a battery.

Figure 6, represents in section, substantially such a telephone as is represented in Figure 4, on circuit.

Figure 7, represents in plan view, an electro-magnet substantially such as shown upon circuit in Figure 5.

Similar letters in the drawings represent corresponding portions of the apparatus.

A, in said drawings, represents a plate of iron or steel, which is fastened at b, and c, to the cover or sounding-box D. E, represents a speaking-tube, by which sounds may be conveyed to or from the plate A. F, is a bar of soft iron. G, is a coil of insulated copper wire placed around the extremity of the end H, of the bar F.

When two or more musical signals are being transmitted over the same circuit, all the telephones reproduce the signals for all the messages; but as the signals for each message differ in pitch from those for the other messages, it is easy for an operator to fix his attention upon one message of a certain pitch and ignore the others.

When a large number of dispatches are being simultaneously transmitted, it will be advisable for the operator to listen to his telephone through a resonator, which will re-enforce to his ear the signals which he desires to observe. In this way he is enabled to direct his attention to the signals for any given message without being distracted or disturbed by the signals for any other messages that may be passing over the line at the time.

The musical signals, if preferred, can be automatically received by means of a resonator, one end of which is closed by a membrane, which only vibrates when the note with which the resonator is in unison, is emitted by the receiving telephone. The vibrations of the membrane may be made to operate a circuit-breaker, which will actuate a Morse

sounder or a telegraphic recording or registering apparatus.

Hence, by this plan, the simultaneous transmission of a number of telegraphic messages over a single circuit in the same or in both directions, with a single main battery for the whole circuit and a single telephone at each station, is rendered practicable. This is of great advantage in this, that, for the conveyance of several messages, or signals, or sounds over a single wire simultaneously, it is no longer necessary to have separate instruments correspondingly tuned, for each given sound, which plan requires nice adjustment of the corresponding instruments, while the present improvement admits of a single instrument at each station; or, if for convenience several are employed, they all are alike in construction, and need not be adjusted or tuned to particular pitches.

Whatever sound is made in the neighborhood of any telephone, say at J, Figure 4, is echoed in fac-simile by the telephones of all the other stations upon the circuit; hence, this plan is also adapted to be used for the intelligible transmission of the exact sounds of articulate speech. To convey an articulate message, it is only necessary for an operator to speak in the neighborhood of his telephone, preferably through the tube E, and for another operator at a distant station upon the same circuit, to listen to the telephone at that station. If two persons speak simultaneously in the neighborhood of the same or different telephones, the utterances of the two speakers are reproduced simultaneously by all the other telephones on the same circuit; hence, by this plan a number of vocal messages may be transmitted simultaneously on the same circuit in either or both directions.

All the effects noted above may be produced by the same instruments without a battery, by rendering the central bar F, H, permanently magnetic. A form of telephone is shown in Figures 5, and 7, for use without a battery. In it is employed a permanent magnet to the poles of which are affixed pole-pieces of soft iron P, Q, surrounded by helices of insulated wire R, S.

In lieu of the plate A, in the above Figures, iron or steel reeds of definite pitch may be placed in front of the electro-magnet O. The battery of course may be omitted.

This invention is not limited to the use of iron or steel, but includes within its scope any material capable of inductive action.

The essential feature of the invention consists in the armature of the

receiving instrument being vibrated by the varying attraction of the magnet, so as to vibrate the air in the vicinity thereof in the same manner as the air is vibrated at the other end by the production of the sound. It is therefore by no means necessary or essential that the transmitting instrument should be of the same construction as the receiving instrument. Any instrument receiving and transmitting the impression of agitated air may be used as the transmitter, although for convenience, and for reciprocal communication, it is preferred to use like instruments at either end of an electrical wire.

For convenience it is preferred to apply to each instrument a call-bell. This may be arranged so as to ring, first, when the main circuit is opened; second, when the bar F, comes into contact with the plate A. The first is done to call attention; the second indicates when it is necessary to readjust the magnet, for it is important that the distance of the magnet from the plate should be as little as possible, without, however, being in contact.

The electrical undulations produced upon the main line by the vibration of the plate A, are intensified by placing the coil G, at the end of the bar F, nearest the plate A, and not extend it beyond the middle, or thereabout.

The telephone represented in Figure 7, will preferably be arranged within a handle, as in Figure 6.

The telephone represented in Figure 6, is arranged for hand use. It is composed of a permanently magnetized bar of steel placed within the handle a, and provided at its end with a single coil of insulated wire. The inner and outer ends of this coil are attached to wires d, e, to properly connect the instrument with a telegraphic wire of an electric current. In Figure 6, the speaking and hearing apparatus is made as a very short or cap-shaped mouth-piece.

I claim as my invention —

1. The union upon, and by means of, an electric circuit of two or more instruments, constructed for operation substantially as herein shown and described, so that, if motion of any kind or form be produced in any way in the armature of any one of the said instruments, (the armatures of all the other instruments) upon the same circuit, will be moved in like manner and form; and if such motion be produced in the former by sound, like sound will be produced by the motion of the latter.

2. In a system of electric telegraphy or telephony, consisting of transmitting and receiving instruments, united upon an electric circuit, the production in the armature of each receiving instrument, of any given motion by subjecting said armature to an attraction varying in intensity, however such variation may be produced in the magnet; or the production of any given sound or sounds from the armature of the receiving instrument, by subjecting said armature to an attraction varying in intensity, in such manner as to throw the armature into that form of vibration that characterizes the given sound or sounds.

3. The combination with an electro-magnet, of a plate of iron, or steel, or other material capable of inductive action, which can be thrown into vibration by the movement of surrounding air, or by the attraction of a magnet.

4. The combination with a plate and an electro-magnet, of means whereby the relative position of the two may be adjusted, so that without touching, they may be set as closely together as possible.

5. The formation, in an electric telephone, such as herein shown and described, of a magnet with a coil upon the end or ends of the magnet nearest the plate.

6. The combination with an electric telephone such as described, of a sounding box, substantially as herein shown and set forth.

7. In combination with an electric telephone as herein described, the employment of a speaking or hearing tube, for conveying sounds to or from the telephone, substantially as set forth.

8. In a system of electric telephony, the combination of a permanent magnet and a plate of iron or steel, or other material capable of inductive action, with coils placed upon the end or ends of said magnet nearest the plate, substantially as set forth.

9. As a new article of manufacture, a telephone constructed substantially as in Figure 6, the magnet being arranged within the handle portion, substantially as shown and described.

Boston 31st July, 1877.

Signed in the presence of
R. L. Roberts
H. M. Gregory

Alexander Graham Bell

This is the Specification referred to in the affidavit of Alexander Graham Bell, hereto annexed.

Sworn before me this 31st day of July, A.D. 1877. Reuben L. Roberts
Notary Public.

References

- A. Plate.
- D. Sounding box.
- E. Speaking tube.
- F. Bar of soft iron.
- G. Coil.
- h. End of coil.
- I. Adjusting screw.
- J. Telephone.
- K. " "
- L. " "
- M. " "
- N. Battery.
- O. Magnet
- P. Pole-piece.
- Q. " "
- R.S. Relices.
- a. Handle.
- d.e. Wires.

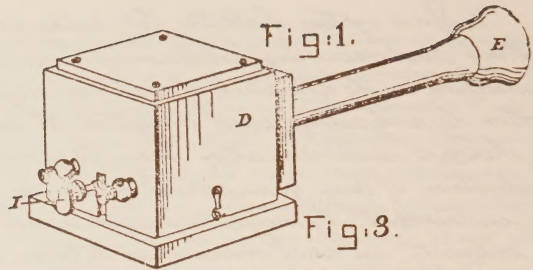


Fig. 2.

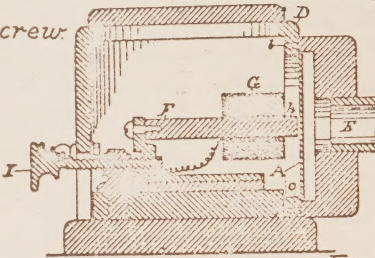


Fig. 3.

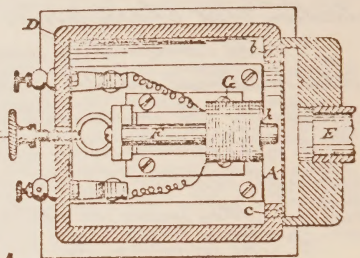


Fig. 4.

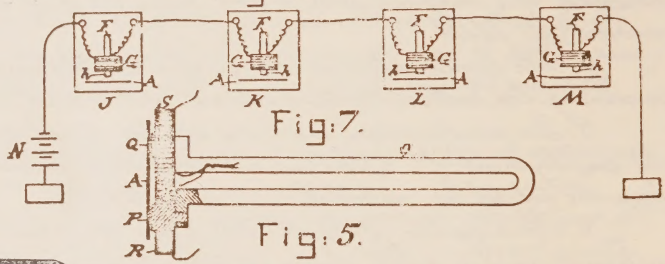


Fig. 5.

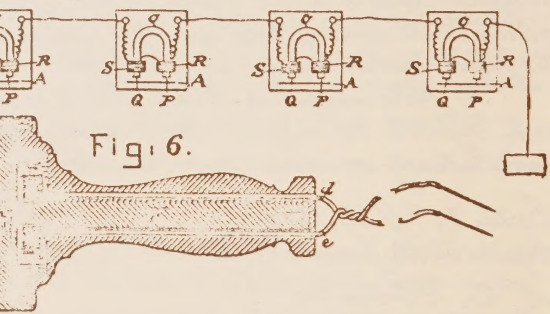
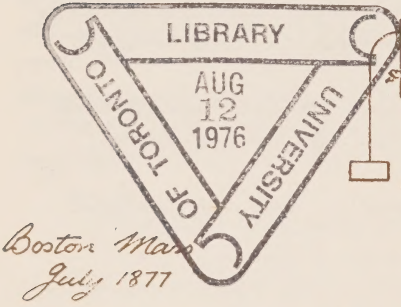


Fig. 6.



Certified to be the Drawing referred to in the Specification hereunto annexed

Geo. W. Gregory
S. C. Perkins.

Alexander Graham Bell
Inventor



COPIES OF THIS BOOKLET
MAY BE OBTAINED AT:

THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT BOOKSTORE
880 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario

OR BY WRITING TO:

THE PUBLICATIONS CENTRE
3B-7 Macdonald Block
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario

